

Britain on the brink of slide into recession

United Kingdom economic indicators are pointing to a severe recession. Industrialists have given warning that trading was becoming more difficult, and government figures showed that stocks were being heavily run down, strength of the pound, record post-war unemployment and a cut in industrial output at companies' difficulties.

Major companies face trading difficulties

Colin Atkinson and others

Evidence that Britain is sliding into what is expected to be a severe recession came yesterday.

The major companies, gave a tougher picture of their business than the ICI, Britain's industrial concern, said it was bound to get difficult as 1980 wears on.

The ICI's industrial figures showed a heavy cut in its first quarter of this year, reduced its investment.

It was too soon to dismiss the official forecast, as the steel strike is thought to have accounted for about half of the £370m decline in manufacturing stocks.

In a speech, the Prime Minister said that the rate of increase to which the economy was being subjected was "extraordinary".

Describing the recent speech of Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, as "extremely interesting", Mrs Thatcher said that the union's claims meant that other people suffered from increased prices.

Unemployment, the Prime Minister said, would continue to rise over the coming months as the necessary rationalizations and reductions in over-manning were made. That process had to be completed to increase productivity and to allow industries to compete.

Replying to a Conservative MP who reminded her that yesterday was the 60th birthday of Professor Hugh Clegg, chairman of the Commission on Pay Comparability, Mrs Thatcher said that she had recently told her that she intended to retire in September.

She appeared to be driving another nail into the coffin of the ill-fated commission when she reminded MPs that its terms of reference were to study feasibility of comparability, whereas most of the references asked for pay recommendations. She questioned whether it was possible to establish genuine comparability between certain jobs.

ICL reported first quarter pre-tax profits of £152m, an improvement of £54m on the same period last year when the group was hit by the bauxite strike. But the group warned the equity market by saying that since the end of the period, trading conditions had become "much more difficult".

In important areas like fibres, plastics and petrochemicals and that profit margins were narrowing.

Much of the other bad news yesterday was concentrated in the engineering sector. GKN said first half profits would be "substantially short" of the corresponding period last year.

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Government considers abolition of Clegg Commission in tough new pay policy

1 Routledge

Editor: Government is under no obligation to be actively considering the abolition of the Clegg Commission as part of its new line on public sector pay.

Senior civil servants expect that the commission, which has been used as a mechanism to squeeze extra pay rises from government departments, will be wound up.

Important new references can be made to the commission in the past five months. Professor Hugh Clegg, the commission's chairman, is due to retire in September. It is argued that there is no value in keeping on a body which could undermine the public sector incomes.

Out of the commission is being discussed at a meeting of the Cabinet.

Who? AIT

Excuse

criticism of EEC accounts is checked by MPs

The EEC Commission's accounts were endorsed yesterday by the Select Committee on European Affairs. The 1978 accounts were described by the Court of Auditors as incomplete. Published financial statements did not enable the reader to gain a clear picture of the Commission's financial affairs. The Select Committee's special report to the House of Commons said the criticism was "a severe indictment of the accounts".

press derailed

An train was derailed after the Night Express, running at 74 mph, hit a rail with 200 people on board. The train was derailed at Edinburgh. It is expected to be in court today. British Rail said it was found on the track, and no defect was detected on the track or rolling stock.

Police chief hits back

A spirited defence of the police against recent criticisms is made by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, in his annual report. The case of Mr James Kelly, who died in custody, had been used to make an almost neurotic attack on the police generally.

United Arab Emirates: A 12-page Special Report on the seven Gulf emirates assesses their political and economic climate in the light of the regional crisis.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 26-28; Appointments, 18, 26; Classic and vintage cars, 24, 25; Car buyers' guide, 25

Wage rises 'must be kept below inflation'

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, joined forces in the Commons yesterday to reaffirm their determination that pay increases, particularly in the public sector, should remain below the level of inflation.

The message was that the Government had no intention of introducing a formal incomes policy and that one of the best ways of reducing the retail price index, at present 21.9 per cent, was to prevent wages rising higher than prices.

Sir Geoffrey said that over the past three years pay had risen 12 per cent more than prices while output had grown by only 5 per cent. It was crucial to reduce the cash expansion of public expenditure. One contributory factor to the substantial cost of the health service was the increase in salaries.

He reminded MPs that Britain was almost the only industrial country which had not accepted a rate of pay increase several percentage points below price increases.

To Liberal pleas for the introduction of an incomes policy, the Chancellor said that that suggestion would find only a modest degree of support from all sides of the Commons.

He added that, as an essential part of reducing inflation, the public sector must secure progressively lower rates of pay.

A few moments later Mrs Thatcher was also emphasizing that the only sound policy, which in some ways could be called a pay policy, was to close the gap between increased pay and efficiency. It might be necessary, she said, for some firms to accept a rate of pay increase below the inflation level.

The rate of increase to which the economy was being subjected was "extraordinary". Mrs Thatcher said that the union's claims meant that other people suffered from increased prices.

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Letters: On nuclear deterrence, from the Deputy Director, International Institute for Strategic Studies; on Jerusalem peace, from Brigadier Lord Ballantrae; on social science research, from Mr Michael Posner

Leading articles: Saudi Arabia; Czechoslovakia; Technical training

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John Biggs-Davison on the prospects for Irish unity; Geoffrey Smith on the Iranian sanctions; Rocco Controversy over Ronald Reagan's California years, by Patrick Brogan

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Sir Robert McEwen, Mr John Collier, Mr J. M. Lucker

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Nicholas Wapshott reviews *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* and other new films in London; Philip Howard on the National

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Somewhere in London: Mr Ilya Dzhirkvelov, a former KGB officer and Tass correspondent, who defected to Britain last month, seen telling *The Times* of his experiences.

He said that all Soviet correspondents abroad were to some extent also agents of the KGB. Their reports reaching the Soviet press were tendentious and selective, while those to the authorities tended to correspond more closely to reality. The authorities

nevertheless, preferred an "interpretation" of events that reinforced their belief in the advance of Communism.

At his post in Khartoum, he had a meeting every morning with the regular KGB agent to whom he reported his conversations with Sudanese figures. He was dismayed to find in 1971 that Moscow took the unfounded view that Sudan was ripe for a pro-Soviet coup.

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Photo: Harry Hain

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Mrs Thatcher wants to streamline Whitehall

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister and senior ministers are working on a plan to streamline Whitehall into a smaller, sharper administrative machine capable of implementing the less interventionist style of government Mrs Margaret Thatcher has adopted.

Stimulated by a paper entitled *The Conventions of Government* prepared by Sir Derek Royner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer and her adviser on the elimination of government waste, the Prime Minister's plan has developed two key elements.

The first is the opening up of the Whitehall hierarchy to younger officials of proven merit, which could lead to men and women reaching permanent secretary rank in their late thirties instead of their early fifties.

Secondly, a review is under way of the functions and performance of Whitehall's three central departments, the Treasury, the Cabinet Office and, particularly, the Civil Service Department, about whose capacities there has been most criticism.

Whitehall, which has been in Parliament over the past four years.

Mrs Thatcher is not committed to the survival of the Civil Service Department in its present form. It seemed at one time that she would wait until the retirement of Sir Ian Bancroft, Head of the Home Civil Service, at the end of 1982 before either merging it with the Treasury or redesigning its personnel and manpower.

Her keenness to fulfil her commitment to reduce Whitehall numbers by 102,000 during her first term of office seems now to be leading the Prime Minister towards speedier action.

Civil Service Department officials told the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service on Monday that detailed plans for implementing

the latest 75,000 tranches of manpower cuts have yet to be worked out.

In her statement on the cuts last week, the Prime Minister gave a clear hint about the twin thrust of the review kindly by Sir Derek's paper. She said: "It is the Government's job to ensure that the structure of the Civil Service, its working methods and the rewards it offers for success bring out the best in its staff."

Detailed work on shortening the Whitehall hierarchy is being carried out by the personnel management divisions of the Civil Service Department under the direction of Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State.

Apart from more rapid promotion for officials of demonstrated capacity, the plan involves the possible abolition of some grades, like under-secretary and senior executive officer, and the reduction in number of other ranks in departments that are top or middle heavy.

The efficiency and dedication of the lower grades seems to have caused a strong impression on Mrs Thatcher and Sir Derek during their departmental visits. Both have spoken privately with great warmth of the work of staff in local offices.

Sir Derek, in a memorandum submitted to the select committee on February 20, gave further hints about the contents of his "conventions of government" document. It urges a greater emphasis on the management of money and manpower inside departments.

More professionally qualified staff rather than general administrators should be involved in establishments and financial work. There will probably be more emphasis on management training inside the Civil Service as a result.

Book League's move south of the river: William Mann on ENON's *A Village Romeo and Juliet*; Ned Baller on Lord Arthur Sutherland's *Crime at the Malvern Festival*

Business News, pages 17-23

Stock markets: Equities retreated yesterday under the weight of adverse trading news. *Glits* marked time and the FT Index tumbled 5.1 to 426.5

Financial Editor: This is the recession: ICI demand falls off. *Business* features: Kenneth Owen and Peter Hill examine the *Impos* affair; Roman Eisenstein on the background to the Charterhouse-Kayser takeover bid

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Yentis: Britain out of Federation Cup; Racing: Derby second favourite falls at Kempton Park; Cricket: Minor Counties beat Gloucestershire in Benson and Hedges Cup; Essex beat West Indians

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Armed citizens take control of 16 towns in South Korea revolt

From Jacqueline Rediff

Seoul, May 22

A full-scale anti-Government revolt spread throughout the south of Cholla province in South Korea today. Residents formed themselves into armed militia and took control of at least 16 towns in the region.

In Kwangju, the provincial capital, where the trouble started five days ago when students began protesting against the imposition of martial law, troops withdrew from the town. More than 10,000 soldiers, including paratroopers, are massed on the outskirts and eye-witnesses said they appeared to be preparing to storm the city. Fighter-bombers flew low over the town and other aircraft and dozens of helicopter-gunships stood ready for action.

The townspeople have so far shown no intention of submitting to the military and there are fears that if the troops move in to crush the revolt, there will be a chain reaction of protests in other parts of the country.

Mr Park Choong Hoon, the newly appointed acting Prime Minister, flew by helicopter to Kwangju today but was unable to land in the town. He broadcast a message on local radio frequencies to the citizens, urging them to return to their homes and their jobs and "not to make any more mistakes".

As a former Deputy Prime Minister for two years during the authoritarian rule of the late President Park, the new Prime Minister is not a man the militants of Cholla province are likely to trust or willingly submit to.

In the coastal town of Mokpo, about 20 miles south-west of Kwangju, about 30,000 demonstrators gathered in the town centre, attacked the town hall, set fire to the police station and the Maritime Police Department, and forced policemen to escape to the sea in boats.

Mokpo is the hometown of Mr Kim Dae Jung, a well-known dissident, who was among the first to be arrested last weekend after the Government's declaration of full martial law. In 1973 he opposed President Park in the presidential elections and was only narrowly defeated.

Train and bus services to Cholla province were suspended and telephone communications to Kwangju have been cut. The exact number of casualties in Kwangju is not yet known but one foreign journalist counted 58 dead in six hospitals.

Medical staff said at least 350 people had been wounded, most of them since shooting broke out on Tuesday. Local doctors had worked throughout the night but many of the injured were still untreated.

At one hospital, corpses overflowed from the morgue on to the grass outside, where they lay covered with bloodstained cloths.

A group of representatives from Kwangju—two students and six residents—met martial law officers in the suburbs of the town in a move to open negotiations. First on their list of demands was the immediate execution of Lieutenant-General Chun Doo Hwan, the Army's defence security commander and recently appointed chief of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. General Chun is believed by many to be the real power behind President Choi Kyu Hah.

Other demands included the handing over of the Government to democratic forces, the resignation of President Choi's "puppet" Government, the release of Mr Kim Dae Jung and all others detained, the lifting of martial law, the reopening of universities, and the restoration of freedom to the press to print the truth about the situation in Kwangju.

They also demanded full compensation for the alleged atrocities committed by the troops. As curfew came into force tonight at 9 o'clock, the South Korean Army cancelled the rebel town ready for battle. The people of Kwangju, armed with dynamite and automatic rifles seized from armouries and explosive factories, waited inside their besieged town for the outcome.

US warning: The United States warned communist North Korea today that it will react strongly to any attempt to exploit the internal strife in South Korea.

charges that we in Britain are anti-Muslim". He pointed out that there were more than one-and-a-half million Muslims in Britain, and that "more pilgrims travelled from here to Mecca last year than from the rest of Europe and North America combined".

There were mosques in all parts of the country, including the magnificent Islamic Centre in Regent's Park, he said. "Lord Carrington said: 'It is no good talking about Islam and the West as if they lived in separate bubbles. The two worlds are far more interdependent than ever before'."

Common religious and cultural traditions should be respected on all sides. "And I hope we are entitled to expect a responsible approach when such sensitive matters are at issue".

He went on to say that he had been "distressed by

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HOME NEWS

Mrs Thatcher wants index-linked pensions to be offset against pay rises and announces an inquiry

By Fred Emery

The Prime Minister yesterday announced the setting up of an independent inquiry into the method of valuation of index-linked pensions enjoyed by some 5,500,000 employees in the public sector.

The inquiry had been foreshadowed in the Budget speech, by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in the House of Commons, when she was not satisfied that what she called the "difficult problem" of valuation had been adequately considered in all the various schemes, gave a clear hint that she wished index-linking to be offset against pay increases to a greater extent, and so help in the battle against inflation.

The principle of index-linking pensions as such will not be examined by the inquiry. Under the chairmanship of Sir Bernard Scott, chairman of Lucas Industries, the inquiry will be expected to report within three or four months.

Its advice could lead the Government, as employer, and other authorities in the public sector such as nationalized industries, to propose changes in arrangement, which would be considered by unions and staff associations.

Among those enjoying index-linked pensions are the Civil Service, ministers, MPs, the

judiciary, the Armed Forces, the police, nurses, doctors, and teachers; and many employees of local authorities and nationalized industries.

The inquiry's terms of reference suggest that the Government Actuary's methods of valuation (updated only yesterday in his annual report), need to be revised.

The inquiry is asked to consider:

- 1 The assumptions and methods used by the Government Actuary where he assesses the value of differences in inflation proofing of occupational pensions.

2 The relative degree of security in the full inflation-proofing enjoyed by public sector employees compared with those in the private sector, and the additional value to be placed on it.

3 How to assess the relative job security enjoyed by employees in the private and public sectors.

In its report the inquiry may suggest what valuations, or methods of valuation, would be appropriate to take account of these factors in determining pay under other conditions of service.

A Downing Street press notice states that the difference between the public and

privately employed "and its costs has become important... and has attracted strong criticism."

"The Government is dedicated to the objective of reducing inflation, and success in what will diminish the problems arising from different kinds of pension treatment."

It notes the widespread doubts expressed about the value of the benefits of index-linking.

Other members of the inquiry will be: Sir Alexander Jarratt, chairman and chief executive of Reed International; Professor Harold Rose, group economic adviser to Barclays Bank; Mr Robert Macdonald, general manager and actuary of the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society; and Mr Gavin Laird, member of the TUC General Council.

Correspondence should be sent to the Inquiry into Value of Pension, HM Treasury, London, SW1P 3AG.

"Mixed" policy: Civil Service unions reacted to the Prime Minister's announcement by saying that they had nothing to hide (Our Labour Staff writes).

The inquiry follows the Thatcher policies and is deliberately biased against the public sector.

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said:

Yard seek two men over torch explosion

By Craig Seton

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has issued the descriptions of two men, one of them speaking with a slight Irish accent, who could have planted the antipersonnel torch bomb which exploded at Cardiff police station, south London, last week, seriously injuring a young constable.

They were seen loitering in the outer hall of the police station some time towards midnight a week ago last Tuesday, more than four hours before Police Constable Steven Eickling picked up a small orange torch and switched it on. It exploded, blowing off his right hand and damaging his eyes.

Commander Peter Duffy, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said at a press conference yesterday that he wanted the men to come forward so that they could be eliminated from inquiries.

He said no motive had been established for the attack and his team had no specific line of inquiry. He added: "We cannot attribute it to any group or any person. We can tell you how, but not who and why."

The first man, in his late 30s and about 5ft 7in tall, had collar-length dark brown-ginger hair and was going bald. He spoke with a slight Irish accent.

The second man, in his late 20s and also about 5ft 7in, had straight, ash-blond, collar-length hair.

Chancellor's offer of talks dismissed by Mr Murray

Continued from page 1

While the ferment over the Government's determination to reduce the level of public sector settlements continued yesterday, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, once again dismissed the Chancellor's offer of talks about incomes policy.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's proposal for a meeting, made at a CBI dinner, was "a poor way to start negotiations," he said.

"A casual point of suggestion thrown out after a dinner is not a serious way to discuss things involving the economy," he said. But the TUC did not want to resort to demonstrations like the May 14 day of action to get its message across to

ministers. "I would much rather sit down with the Government and get discussions going on these policies."

Mr Denis Healey, Shadow Chancellor, said that Sir Geoffrey's "olive branch on pay had turned out to be a cane." Speaking to the electrician's union in Eastbourne, he added that the Chancellor was offering not a dialogue "but just another lecture about the wickedness of trying to catch up with the price increases he has caused."

Ministers are likely to point out another "success" for their policy of moderate wage settlements in the decision yesterday by 5,000 Liverpool dockers to accept rises of 13 per cent, operative from April 26.

MPs' salaries compared

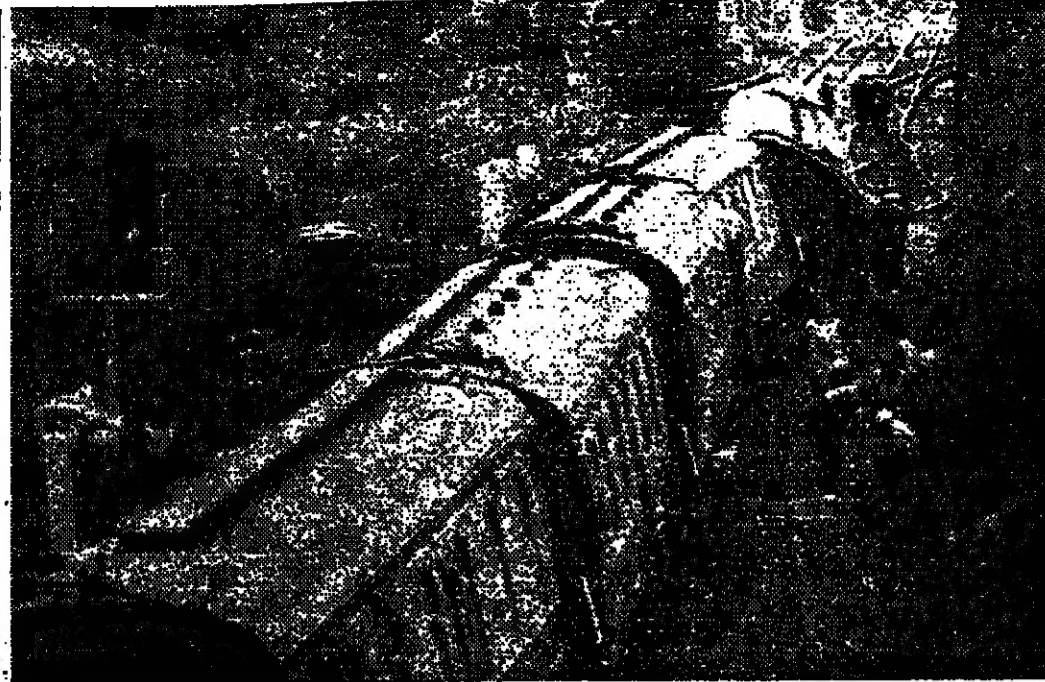
By Our Political Staff

In advance of the expected statement next month on increases in MPs and ministers' salaries, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the Commons, yesterday gave comparisons with salaries in other legislatures.

At Westminster an MP's annual salary is £9,450, due to be increased next month to £10,725, plus any recommendation that may come from the Boyle Committee on Top

Salaries on "up-dating" to take account of cost-of-living increases.

Yesterday's figures showed basic salaries in other countries as: Belgium, £21,935; Denmark, £11,390; West Germany, £21,898; France, £27,117; Italy, £13,014; Luxembourg, £13,748; Holland, £20,085; Republic of Ireland, £9,375; Australia, £13,451; Canada, £11,424; New Zealand, £8,648; United States, Members of Congress, £26,753.



The scene at Prestonpans after the express left the rails, destroying a quarter of a mile of track.

Man held after train derailment

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

A man was detained last night after the Night Aberdeen express left the rails early yesterday with 200 people on board at Prestonpans, nine miles from Edinburgh.

Police said a report had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Haddington. It is likely the man will appear in court today.

Mr Leslie Soane, British Rail general manager for Scotland, said after a preliminary investigation of locomotive stock and track at the crash scene no equipment defect had been found.

He said an object appeared

to have been on the track. From the marks on it it must have been contributory to, if not the cause of, the derailment.

The train, being travelling at 74 miles an hour when it left the rails. No one was injured.

An internal inquiry began into why the train left the rails, destroying a quarter mile of track. One passenger was taken to hospital suffering from shock. The rest were transferred to a train at Dunbar and continued their journey to King's Cross.

The main east coast line between Edinburgh and London was blocked. British Rail expected that one line will be opened by this evening and that services will be back to normal on Sunday.

Many passengers were asleep when the carriages left the rails and ploughed a halt. When I heard that I realized we were off the rails. I thought the whole train was coming down on me. But it just came to a stop."

happened shortly before 1 am. The express was on a section of track which had an 80 mph limit when the carriages began to shake.

Mr Charles Gallagher, a sleeping-car attendant, said he was just settling down to a cup of tea when 30 sets of crockery fell on his head.

"It was a nightmare, everything was shaking and I was knocked out for a short while. When I came to I went and got a lady doctor who was on the train and I got the screens going. All the doors were opened and I made sure everyone was up. There was no panic."

Other passengers spoke about being awakened by gravel falling from the track striking the windows of the coach. One said: "When I heard that I realized we were off the rails. I thought the whole train was coming down on me. But it just came to a stop."

Mint to issue 100,000 proof sovereigns

By a Staff Reporter

A limited issue of 100,000 sovereigns dated 1980 is to be struck by the Royal Mint, which said yesterday that 50 per cent will be reserved for sale in the United Kingdom and the rest for collectors overseas.

The sovereigns will be struck to proof quality from highly polished dies. The reverse features St George slaying the dragon and the obverse has a portrait of the Queen.

The Royal Mint said 90,000 would be available individually and 10,000 will be included in presentation cases containing the £5, £2, sovereign and half-sovereign. It is also intended to issue 100,000 1980 proof half-sovereigns later this year.

The price of the 1980 proof sovereign will be £110 in the United Kingdom, including registered post. The Royal Mint is at first limiting the sale to one piece a person to previous buyers on the Numismatic Bureau's mailing list.

Lightning strike causes chaos at Luton airport

From Our Correspondent

Luton

Chaos was caused at Luton airport yesterday after three workmen were suspended and their workmates called a lightning strike. Hundreds of passengers were stranded and incoming flights had to be diverted.

The strike came at 3 pm, when 300 manual workers, including baggage handlers and security staff, walked out. They said they would not return until the three suspended men had been reinstated.

An airport official said the three men, who were in the

freight loading section, were suspended for failing to carry out their duties. It is understood the men were involved in an overtime dispute.

Fifteen flights carrying 1,800 people were due to leave Luton overnight at the start of one of the peak holiday weeks. Two thousand more passengers were due to arrive on 15 flights. Airlines were using coaches to take holidaymakers to other airports.

Luton council, which owns the airport, was hoping to hold an emergency meeting of the works' labour relations sub-committee.

Union wins 8-month fight

An eight-month strike by women workers at the Chix bubble gum factory in Slough, Berkshire, has been settled.

The company had refused to recognize the General and Municipal Workers Union, to which 96 workers involved in the dispute belonged. But the annual conference in Bourne-mouth was told yesterday that the company had decided to recognize the union.

Delegates were told that the mainly Asian work force would return to work early next week after the signing of an agreement in London. The women were earning on average 52p an hour, compared with the

minimum basic in the confectionery trade of £1.30 an hour, say negotiations would follow.

Mr Robert Smith, GMWU national officer, said: "It is a great victory for the workers at Chix and for the Asian community. I don't think any group of other women or other workers would have the courage to picket like we did so passively for so long to win. It was a Gandhi approach, and quite remarkable," he added.

The Chix management, which has refused to comment throughout the dispute, remained silent about the settlement.

Animal experiment 'intimidated' claim

By George Clark

Some militant groups among the various lobbyists demanding reform of the animal protection laws are harassing scientific workers and "bringing undeserved discredit on the animal welfare lobby," a Lords select committee said yesterday.

The criticism is in the full report of a committee that examined and reported on the Laboratory Animals Protection Bill introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Halsbury.

Because of printing difficulties, only a brief summary of the report was available on Tuesday when the proposed amendments to the Bill were published.

Yesterday, in their full report, the committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Ashby, said that most animal welfare societies pursue their aims peacefully and legitimately, and to good effect.

It was a case in which militant efforts, motivated under the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation (CRAE), that all three main political parties promised in their election manifestos to reform the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, the report states.

It was a case in which moderate opinion, patiently pressed upon governments, had paid off. However, that was not true of all those who campaigned on behalf of animals. There are small, militant groups and fanatical individuals who cause great anxiety to a few scientific workers and who bring undeserved discredit upon the

animal welfare lobby port coasts.

"We received evidence that some physiologists victims of intolerable situation. They suffer at night, threats to them to their families, or later harassment children."

"Similarly, militancy are responsible for acts of vandalism, damage running to thousands of pounds at places of work. The committee said who were deeply about the operation of Act and wanted ref way supported or those attacks on people to carry out expensive their premises."

"It is to be hoped effective channel of ability would expose the allegations made persons and would be gained research work generally is indispensable to human and 'fare'."

The committee was suggestion from the for the Study of Behaviour, that should give an account experiments and was had proved no be "that the conscience investigator should formally to his not year when he mak turn."

The committee also suggestion and clause 5 of the amend

Mr Haughey gets his v on 'Irish dimension'

By Our Political Editor

In spite of the outspoken rejection in advance by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, of any British proposal of Ulster devolution confined to Northern Ireland, ministers yesterday were predicting that he would be able to go along with the proposals.

They are expected to be published next month as a White Paper leading to a reconvening of the conference of the Ulster parties attending the constitutional discussions.

"Precisely what the proposals contain is closely guarded; final Cabinet discussion is still to be completed. However, it is expected that when they are published Mr Haughey will be able to assert that his successful Downing Street talks on Wednesday brought about changes that enabled him to withdraw his opposition."

The deal does not mean he will get the "Sunningdale" arrangement involving London, Dublin and Belfast in the tripartism that he stated in London on Wednesday he preferred. It means

that the "Irish dimension" is acknowledged, implicit in any proposal; it is said the Ray, who is also acknowledged, acknowledges the

The British side particular impression Prime Minister. Haughey was far from placing relationship broader national Ulster was the ap hold regular meet ministers, who seen cant in stimulating cooperation.

There is renewed linking the electric not merely at the IRA keeps disrup but between Wex and for the there is a proposal to gas line from the linked to Ulster.

None of that was in the Commons when Mrs Margaret decided MPs' inv stray into danger.

£62,000 for a Stradivari

By Huon Malkiel

Sofie's held a sale of musical instruments yesterday in which a lovely Stradivari, made in 1695, with very simple lines and a red-brown varnish, a golden ground, was sold to an anonymous buyer from Germany for £62,000.

A violin of about 1700 by Matteo Votrius of Venice, but bearing a label for Carlo Bergonzi of Cremona, 1719, went to the London dealer, Hillman, for £28,000.

A Cremonese violin of 1695 by Francesco Rugeri was sold to an anonymous buyer for £27,000. It had carried an estimate of between

£20,000 and £30,000, but was issued for the

In New York on Sotheby Parke Bernet last jewels, producing £532,209, or \$1,229,402, most notable of the at a platinum and diamond emerald-cut ring about 24.75 carats, £45,455, or \$105,000, £75,000 to \$100,000.

Christie's sold English in London yesterday £147,580, with 22 per to find buyers.

Weeds will never cross your path again.



Use 'Pathclear' and you won't have weeds on your path or drive for a whole season.

Its special formula kills annual weeds, as well as the top growth of perennials.

It even gives prolonged control of later-germinating weed seedlings.

And equally reassuring is the knowledge that 'Pathclear' does not move through the soil.

So it's safe to use near flower beds and lawns.

Care for your garden.

700 jobs go in Wales with first pit closure

From Our Correspondent

Cardiff

A South Wales colliery employing more than 700 miners is to shut, the National Coal Board stated yesterday.

The announcement came 24 hours after Mr Philip Weekes, the board's area director, told the Parliamentary Select Committee on Welsh Affairs that 12 pits hung like an albatross around the coalfield's neck, losing £35m a year. All might eventually have to close.

Union leaders were told yesterday that the first to close will be Ty-mawr-Lewis Merthyr, near Pontypridd, at the lower end of the Rhondda.

It will mean that only one pit, Mardy, will continue to produce coal in the Rhondda Valley, once the hub of the South Wales coalfield.

Procedure on deportations may be changed

By Our Legal Correspondent

A ruling by the European Court in Luxembourg yesterday may result in a change in the procedure used to deport EEC nationals who have been convicted of crime in British courts.

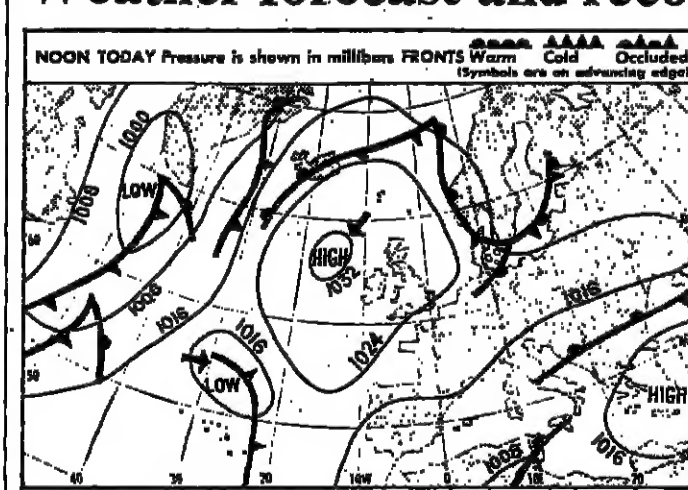
The court, which is the supreme authority on Community-law, made clear that the decision to recommend an EEC convicted criminal for deportation should be made not, as is the practice at present, at the time of sentence but when the expulsion is to take place, by which time factors taken into account may have changed.

The case before the court involved Mr Mario Semilla, an Italian, who was convicted of buggery and rape in 1973.

More Scottish sittings

An increase in the number of sittings days for the Commons Scottish Grand Committee from eight guaranteed days to ten is likely to be recommended to MPs after talks between the Government and the opposition parties.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 4.58 am Sun sets: 8.58 pm
Moon sets: 2.45 am Moon rises: 2.1 pm

Full moon: May 29.
Lighting up: 9.28 pm to 4.27 am.

High water: London Bridge, 9.22 am, 6.0m; 9.44 pm, 5.7m. Average moon: 2.23 am, 10.1m; 3.6 pm, 10.0m. Dover, 7.10 am, 5.1m; 7.31 pm, 5.4m. Hull, 1.36 am, 5.5m; 1.43 pm, 5.6m. Liverpool, 7.3 am, 7.3m; 7.47 pm, 7.3m.

1 ft = 0.3048m 1 m = 3.2808ft (50° to 55° F)

An anticyclone centred W of Scotland will be slow moving and dominate all parts of the United Kingdom.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S and central N England, Midlands: Dry, sunny periods developing in many places. Wind N to NE, moderate; max temp 15° to 16° C (59° to 61° F).

East Anglia, E-England: Mainly dry, perhaps local drizzle, rather cloudy, bright intervals developing; wind N to NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 10° to 13° F (50° to 55° F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Dry, sunny periods; wind NE, moderate in fresh; max temp 14° to 17° C (57° to 63° F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District: Dry, sunny intervals; wind N to NW, moderate; max temp 14° to 16° C (57° to 61° F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Dry, sunny periods, probably becoming cloudier; wind N or NW, moderate; max temp 15° to 18° C (61° to 64° F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Mainly dry, rather variable; bright periods developing; wind mainly NW, moderate; max temp 11° to 14° C (52° to 57° F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry in many places, rather cloudy; wind W to NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 9° to 12° C (48° to 54° F).

Outlook for the weekend: Little general change; a little warmer in S.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE, moderate or fresh, occasionally strong at first in Strait of Dover; sea slight to moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE, light to moderate; sea smooth to slight.

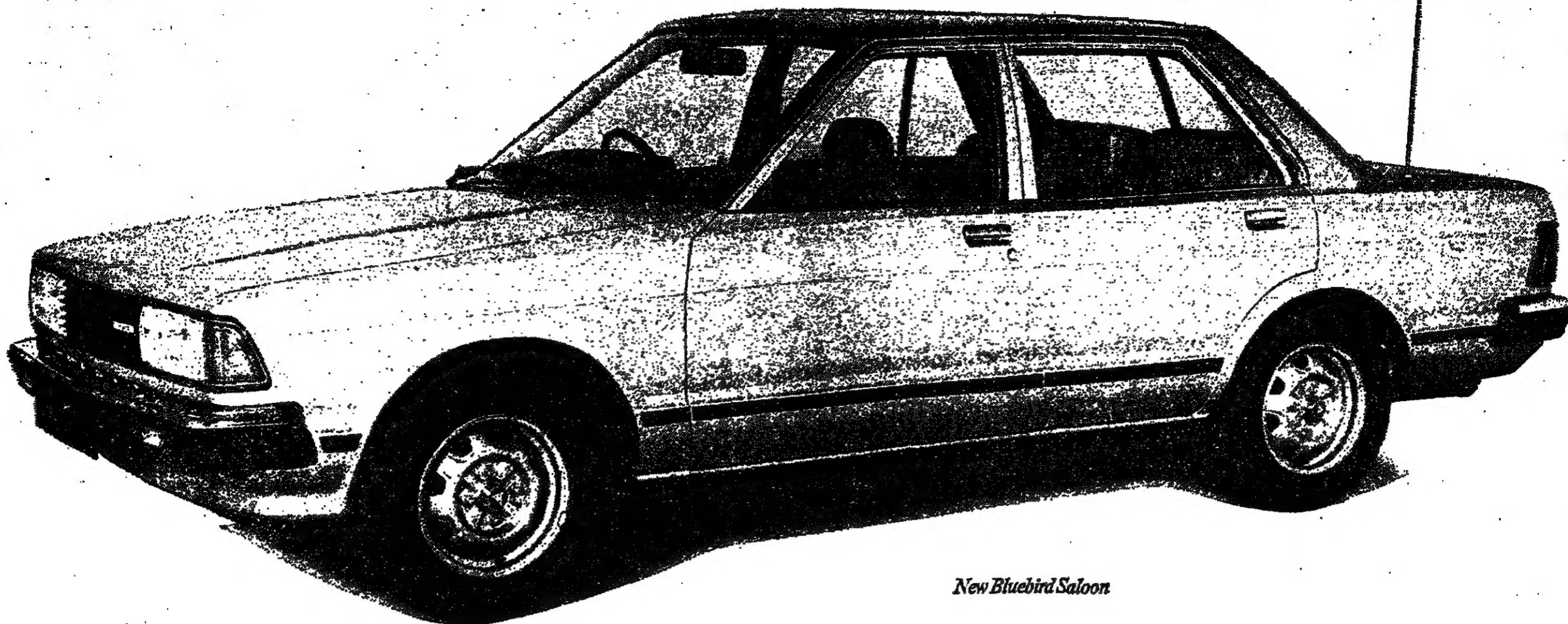
Yesterday
London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 10°C (50°F). Humidity, 7 am, 34 per cent. Rain, 24 hr

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	15	NE	1-3	1013
Edinburgh	11	NE	1-3	1013
Glasgow	11	NE	1-3	1013
Belfast	11	NE	1-3	1013
Cardiff	11	NE	1-3	1013
Birmingham	11	NE	1-3	1013
Manchester	11	NE	1-3	1013
Liverpool	11	NE	1-3	1013
Nottingham	11	NE	1-3	1013
Sheffield	11	NE	1-3	1013
Leeds	11	NE	1-3	1013
Bradford	11	NE	1-3	1013
York	11	NE	1-3	1013
Doncaster	11	NE	1-3	1013
Sheff Hallam	11	NE	1-3	1013
Wakefield	11	NE	1-3	1013
Halifax	11	NE	1-3	1013
Leamington	11	NE	1-3	1013
Southampton	11	NE	1-3	1013
Portsmouth	11	NE	1-3	1013
Weymouth	11	NE	1-3	1013
Bournemouth	11	NE	1-3	1013
Exeter	11	NE	1-3	1013
Plymouth	11	NE	1-3	1013
Cardiff	11	NE	1-3	1013
Belfast	11	NE	1-3	1013
London	11	NE	1-3	1013
Edinburgh	11	NE	1-3	1013
Glasgow	11	NE	1-3	1013
Birmingham	11	NE	1-3	1013
Manchester	11	NE	1-3	1013
Liverpool	11	NE	1-3	1013
Nottingham	11	NE	1-3	1013</

هكذا من الأصل

The New Datsun Bluebird.



New Bluebird Saloon

Now, Japan has produced the best car ever for Europe!

This is the New Datsun Bluebird. Handsome, functional and elegant in a new shape for Europe.

A crowd-stopper without a doubt.

But that's only the start of the story. Because within the new Bluebird, Datsun have incorporated the most modern technology the automotive sciences can provide.

The result is the New Bluebird range – the quietest, most advanced and refined cars that Nissan designers have created. At a price that represents the ultimate in sheer value!

The first Datsun Bluebird was unveiled 21 years ago and since that time, successive models have established a world-wide reputation for performance, economy of operation and durability. Over 2,000,000 Bluebirds have been produced for world markets.

Now comes the most exciting Bluebird yet, a car to challenge and beat the best that Europe can offer in the medium car range.

Technical Advances

High performance, high economy characteristics are engineered into every New Bluebird to make it one of the world's top family cars.

The New Bluebird bodyshells are pressed from a very advanced steel which includes manganese and silicon; this new metal giving high strength, light weight and high durability characteristics.

Technically, there are other major advances for the New Bluebird. Harmonised suspension with "scrub" front geometry and rack and pinion steering for safety and driving comfort; independent rear suspension with semi-trailing arms for saloon and coupé to give outstanding road holding performance; newly designed, ventilated front disc brakes with power assistance to give stable and reliable braking under the toughest driving conditions.

All incorporated in saloons that now have lots more space and sumptuous comfort for driver and passenger alike, together with a long list of special equipment at no extra cost.

There are four models in the New Bluebird range. Two saloons with the choice of a 1.6 litre or a 1.8 litre engine, a very roomy and good-looking 1.8 litre estate car and a Bluebird coupé with sparkling

performance from a special version of the 1.8 litre power unit. The engines are of modern overhead camshaft design to give 100 m.p.h. performance yet, at the same time, use low grade petrol very sparingly indeed.

But the overall economy of the New Bluebird is not confined just to good fuel consumption figures; it has as much to do with Datsun's legendary reputation for mechanical reliability. Like all Datsuns, these new Bluebirds are built to spend their time on the road, not in the workshop.

Executive-Style Equipment

In every New Bluebird you'll find a long, long list of special equipment in true Datsun fashion. In fact, Bluebirds have more in the way of "extras" than some cars costing twice the price.

There's tinted glass * twin waveband push-button radio * quartz clock with month and date display * two-speed wipers with wash/wipe and variable intermittent wipe * halogen headlights * reversing lights * rear fog light * height and lumbar adjustment on driver's seat * adjustable steering column * lockable glovebox with light * roof console with adjustable map light * panel light rheostat * an array of warning lights for washer level, battery level, low fuel, door ajar, etc. * a warning buzzer when lights have accidentally been left on * interior release for boot and fuel lid * rev counter * comprehensive bi-level heating system with rear compartment ducts * courtesy lights on all doors * rear centre armrest * childproof locks * carpeted rear parcel shelf and much more.

All this at a genuinely competitive price!

New Bluebird prices start at £3990 for 1.6 litre saloon and £4098 for the 1.8 litre saloon, which makes them outstanding value compared with cars like the Renault 18, Vauxhall Cavalier 1600 GL, Ford Cortina 1600 GL, or other cars like the Sigma 1600 GL and Montrose 1600 GLS etc., which can cost up to £800 more.

With the New Bluebird range, Datsun have produced an advanced new car that will influence the pattern of motoring in Europe for years to come.

The New Bluebird is at your dealer's showroom now. See it, and test drive it soon.



New Bluebird Coupé £4598
(Alloy road wheels shown extra)



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HOME NEWS

Government urges TUC to press Civil Service unions to modify their stance on new technology

By Donald Macintyre

The Government has appealed to the TUC to bring pressure on the Civil Service unions to modify their stance in negotiations over the introduction of new technology in Whitehall departments. At present a state of deadlock exists.

The move reinforces a ministerial warning that the Government is ready to impose microcomputer systems on the Civil Service if it does not reach rapid agreements with the unions.

The unions' insistence that they will agree to new technology only if there are adequate safeguards, spoken early on, was stiffened yesterday when it was given overwhelming backing by the Society of Civil and Public Servants policy conference in Portsmouth.

Mr Campbell Christie, deputy general secretary of the SCPS, warned delegates that if the Government stuck by its "inflexible" line there would be "major difficulties" in several parts of the Civil Service.

A number of computer projects have already been held up by union resistance.

The Government's view is set out in a text circulating in Whitehall of a statement made this month to the National

Economic Development Council by Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State in the Civil Service Department.

He recalled that it had originally been hoped to produce a central new technology agreement in time for the Civil Service union conferences now being held, and asked the TUC members of NEDC to use "their good offices" to influence the Civil Service unions.

While the Government wanted an agreement, it would if necessary have to insist that new equipment must be used despite union opposition. Obligations to the taxpayer as well as to the staff dictated that the Government could not conceivably allow everything to be frozen and no progress made for another 12 months until the 1981 conferences.

Mr Channon said that new technology could be used to improve services and job satisfaction. Masspower reductions should be achieved through natural wastage; but the Government could not accept that there would be no reduction in jobs.

Both sides said yesterday that they wanted to resume negotiations, though the distance between the two presents large obstacles. The TUC is restricting its pressure to can apply by its policy, which

opposes job losses and calls for a reduction of hours.

Mr Christie told the SCPS conference yesterday that the union was not inflexible in its policy, and indeed had made the first initiative towards an agreement on new technology. It was the Government who had delayed the start of talks from November until February.

The union wanted to see new technology introduced in a way that would improve services, job satisfaction and working hours. "The Government is in the business of new technology to create cheaper administration. The politics is that this Government is about cutting jobs."

But if the Government showed the same imagination in its approach to new technology as the unions had done, then there could be an agreement.

One of the first projects about to start, which has been delayed, is DataLink, the Data Transmission System for Local Office Benefit Inquiries. The project, which has completed trials, allows local Department of Health and Social Security Offices to transfer a day's data on benefit claims to a terminal at Newcastle Upon Tyne, where the information is stored overnight ready for reply the next day.

The hearing started badly when local ethnic group leaders said many organizations refused to give evidence in protest against the decision of Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, not to hold a public inquiry. They stood by their decision even though the



Members of C company of the Royal Green Jackets during defensive chemical training in simulated conditions on the Porton Battleground at Salisbury yesterday.

Bristol race inquiry is called a 'waste of time'

From Tim Jones

Community leaders in Bristol yesterday told the parliamentary subcommittee investigating immigration and race relations that its visit to the city was "a complete and utter waste of time". It was told that only a full, independent public inquiry into the riot in the St Paul's area of the city last month would satisfy the local community.

The hearing started badly when local ethnic group leaders said many organizations refused to give evidence in protest against the decision of Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, not to hold a public inquiry. They stood by their decision even though the

subcommittee had been formed before the riot occurred.

Mr Roy De Freitas, a member of the Bristol Council for Racial Equality, said: "The reason that this body is not accepted is that the black people are not represented on any of its decision-making machinery, or in the machinery of Government. In addition the Government has passed immigration laws which are very racist."

He said that ethnic leaders in other cities had indicated they would also refuse to give evidence to the subcommittee. "We are talking about non-cooperation, and that can eventually lead to civil disobedience and eventually to violence unless this point gets through to

the Government. Young people are saying that if they are pushed any more they will burn, and burn and burn."

Mr John McLaren, a Bristol city councillor, said the support for an independent inquiry was very strong. "This one session is not sufficient and has no guts to it." He added: "Until people have a chance to air their views, your presence in Bristol is complete and utter waste of time. We feel we have been snubbed."

According to Mr William Nicks, chairman of the Bristol Council for Racial Equality, who refused to give detailed evidence, the fundamental issue was unemployment and relationship with the police.

"Attitudes are hardening on

both sides of the community and people are taking an entrenched attitude. Things are getting worse, not better, particularly among young black people, and there is a sense of alienation," he said.

Sir Gervase Walker, chairman of Avon County Council, said: "I do not know the answer to the simple problem of how races are going to live together better. Job opportunities are becoming fewer, and it is true that none of us has done sufficient to help with the problem."

"But it is true that a number of youngsters in St Paul's have either not taken the jobs offered, or have not made themselves sufficiently attractive to employers."

Plea to save small hospitals

By Annabel Ferriman

Health Services Correspondent

More small and medium-size hospitals should be retained as district general hospitals, limited to 600 beds, a Government consultative document published yesterday recommends.

Small community hospitals play an important part at a time when travelling costs are high and public transport in rural districts is limited.

Large hospitals of 900 beds, built as a result of the 1962 hospital plan, often had difficulties with communications and management, the document says.

Patients and relatives as well as staff find the hospital too impersonal. It often suffers from physical disadvantages, such as distance between different departments and the need to provide air-conditioning to internal areas, with high energy requirements.

The document recommends that regional health authorities accept the provision of district general hospitals in urban areas can be retained.

It also suggests the retention of small and medium-size hospitals wherever sensible and practicable, particularly in rural areas.

Dr Bernard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, said in presenting the document yesterday: "It is essential to make better use of existing hospitals rather than putting our money into giant new ones."

But a spokesman for the National Association of Health Authorities said it had doubts about the retention of district general hospitals. "The Future Pattern of Hospital Provision in England" (Department of Health and Social Security).

Man in jail starts test case on jury vetting

By Frances Gibb

The vetting of jurors before a trial at Northampton Crown Court last May, which led to the prosecution challenging at least two of the members for reasons which should not disqualify them from jury service by law, was unlawful and unconstitutional, Mr Robert Martin, QC, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The vetting took place unknown to the defence before the trial of Mr Vincent Mason, aged 43, an antique dealer of Salford, Greater Manchester. He was convicted of burglary at four country houses, including Kedleston Hall.

In what is seen as a test case on jury vetting, Mr Mason, who is now in prison, is seeking leave to appeal against conviction on the ground that the vetting led to there being "material irregularity" during the trial.

The hearing which is before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Balcombe, and Mr Justice Balcombe, is being attended by counsel representing the Attorney General.

Mr Martin argued that while the Crown did have a right to "stand by" a juror, that could not be done without cause. At least one of the jurors was probably rejected on grounds of a previous conviction which by law was not serious enough to disqualify him.

Mr David Barker, QC, for the Crown, said he thought that one of the jurors might have been objected to on the ground that he could not read very well, and another on the ground that one of the policemen in the case knew him. The defence did not know at the time that vetting had taken place.

The case comes as new guidelines on jury vetting from the Attorney General are imminent, and after a recent ruling by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, that jury vetting was unconstitutional but that the courts did not have the power to stop it.

At the trial concerned, the prosecution objected to four jurors and the defence to three. The reasons for objection by the Crown were not known, Mr Martin said.

Mr Justice Michael Davies said he found the number of potential jurors with possible convictions that the case had thrown up worrying. The penalty for not disclosing convictions was only a small fine.

He criticised the whole notion of a random jury as "romantic nonsense". When a long trial was likely the judge informally screened people to ensure that, for instance, they were self-employed, their business would not suffer, or that they had not planned a holiday to Australia to see their children.

The selection of people was "subject to so many qualifications" that in practice one never got a random jury.

Lord Justice Lawton said the case was not about whether vetting was right, but about whether the prosecuting authorities, having received information on jurors, should act upon it.

Both he and Mr Justice Michael Davies said it went against all common sense if prosecuting authorities were not allowed to object to a juror if he had had a brush with the police, even if that was not enough by law to disqualify him.

Lord Justice Lawton added: "There is a number of things in life that cannot be proved, but you know in your bones when you have a 'wrong'un' on the jury."

The hearing continues today.

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Bigger labour force due entirely to more working women

By Lucy Hodges

The persistent advance of women, including mothers of young children, into the labour market is catalogued in a government report published today.

One in eight mothers with a child aged under one year worked in 1976, and by the time their youngest child was of school age more than half the mothers were working. The increase in the size of the labour force in recent years, is

entirely due to more working women, the report says.

A wide range of topics, including the birth-rate, child abuse and tooth decay, are covered in the report.

The report, which has been produced jointly by the Central Policy Review Staff (Think Tank) and the Central Statistical Office, draws together information already available from other sources.

Children drink more alcohol now than they used to and

claim to be more sexually experienced, the report says. A small proportion, less than 1 per cent, are in local authority care, and according to one estimate between 7,000 and 8,000 children are abused by their parents each year.

There are fewer young children in society now than previously, and there is a "bulge" in the number of 16 to 24-year-olds. There are proportionately more older people now than have ever been

recorded; those aged 75 or more will increase their total by nearly a third by the end of the century.

The average weekly gross income for a typical family with children in 1977 was £107, but half of all children were in families with lower incomes and 10 per cent were in households with weekly incomes below £50.

People and Their Families (Statistical Office, £5.30).

More pleas for injunctions may be heard in public

By Our Legal Correspondent

Some applications for injunctions which are at present heard by judges in private are likely to become open to the public.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is in favour in principle of allowing hearings for injunctions in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court to be heard in open court. The department is studying the practical and cost implications of such a step, and no date has

yet been set for implementing the reform.

Judges have the discretion to move into open court if they think it in the public interest, and they have occasionally done so in recent years when injunctions against trade unionists during labour disputes have been sought.

The proposed reform would apply to injunction hearings only where both parties are represented. "Ex parte" applications will continue to be heard in private.

University is advised to close four departments

By Ngalo Crequet, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A development committee at Lancaster University chaired by Professor Philip Reynolds, the vice-chancellor, has recommended the closure of four departments and the absorption in other departments of work done by its centre for north-west regional studies.

The report entitled "A Strategy for the 1980s" the committee argues that the university, facing a decline in financial resources, must strengthen its strong activities by phasing out those that have no reasonable prospect of future viability.

Those proposed for closure over a four-year period are Arabic and Islamic studies, Russian, Central and South-Eastern studies and European studies.

The report says that enforced

redundancy of staff is not contemplated but it foresees their redeployment "in ways which they could find satisfying" and so that they would be able to continue their research.

The report says that the department of Arabic and Islamic studies would not have been created had not funding been created by Kuwait University. When that support was unexpectedly not renewed last year the committee felt it could not authorize further expenditure.

Its view now is that the department cannot be built into a centre of strength in the 1980s, and it recommends that no further students should be admitted and the department should be phased out.

The committee says that it was already giving consideration to the Russian department.

Centres of excellence urged for specialist teachers

British universities and polytechnics should set up a limited number of "centres of excellence" to help to solve the shortage of specialist teachers, a report published yesterday suggests.

The centres would be used to improve the quality of training and concentrate resources and expertise.

The recommendation is contained in a report of a working party of the Standing Conference on Schools Science and Technology. It has been looking into the shortage of specialist teachers in mathematics, physics, sciences and craft, design and technology.

It also recommends that local authorities should investigate whether girls are being given adequate opportunities to study the shortage subjects in schools.

Tradition has kept many girls from studying and teaching the subjects, the working party says. If that could be changed a valuable resource to help to ease the shortage could be made available.

The report says that interim measures taken by the Government to ease the shortage are not enough. It favours new cash incentives to help recruitment, but not by additional payments to specialist teachers.

Instead the Government should consider offering differential grants for students to improve the quality and flow of new specialist entrants.

It is essential, the report adds, to break the vicious circle that involves poor teaching, unfashionable subjects and unmotivated pupils, leading to poor quality and quantity of potential teachers in the next generation.

Helicopters and lifeboats 'complementary in rescues'

The role of lifeboats in search and rescue work was stressed yesterday by the Duke of Atholl, chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

In his report to the annual meeting of governors in London, he said that some critics had suggested that helicopters should replace lifeboats.

"Anybody who is professionally involved with sea rescue will tell them that the present system is extremely efficient. Helicopters and lifeboats are complementary," he said.

The fastest rescue disaster proved that Britain's co-ordinated rescue network, with the RNLI working closely with the RAF, the Royal Navy and coastguard, was one of the finest in the world.

Sixty lives were saved during the rescue of the Costa Concordia, a total of 1,008 saved by RNLI lifeboats last year. That took the total for the 1970s to almost 12,500.

The institution's income last year exceeded £10m for the first time and the target for this year is £11m.

Bravery medal awards were: bar to the silver medal to Coxswain Trevor England, of Padstow; Michael Grant, of Solihull, and Coxswain Kenneth Voice, of Shoreham; bar to the bronze medal to Helmsman John Hodder, of Lyme Regis; and rescue medals to Coxswain Thomas Jones, of Royke, and lifeboatman Colin Jones, of Lyme Regis.

Accused Iranian 'held in solitary confinement'

The Iranian accused of involvement in the embassy siege in London is being held in solitary confinement, Mr John Blackburn Gittings, his solicitor, said at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday when Fowd Badavi, aged 23, appeared on remand.

Reporting restrictions were lifted at an earlier hearing.

When Mr Gittings said: "I understood that he is held in what amount to solitary confinement at Brixton prison," Det Inspector John Todd, who successfully asked for a remand in custody for a week, said: "That is certainly not something that the police have asked for. It may be the prison authorities are doing it for security reasons."

Mr Gittings asked if it would be possible for Mr Najad to associate with other Persian-speaking inmates. Mr Todd said: "That would certainly depend on who that person might be."

Mr Gittings said he would write to the prison governor putting his request. He added: "We have principles in this country that a person does not suffer unnecessary punishment unjustly."

In a separate hearing at the court four other men from the Middle East faced a series of charges and were remanded in custody for a week.

One Iranian was accused of conspiracy to cause explosions and three Libyans faced murder charges.

Arts Council to study orchestras' pleas for funds

By Kenneth Gosling

The Arts Council is to study appeals by Britain's orchestras to be considered as a special case in the allocation of funds. The precariousness of their financial position has been underlined by the decision to disband some BBC orchestras.

Sir Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the council, said yesterday before a meeting with orchestra representatives that the council's music panel would give them special attention at their meetings next month and in July.

The worst affected are the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Bournemouth Sinfonietta.

"Some orchestras are going to have crises," Sir Roy said, "and they are telling us of their dilemma in view of the severe financial pressures on them."

According to figures published by the council yesterday, the allocation of the annual grant for music has risen by just over 8 per cent to £4.5m. The national companies received a 12.5 per cent increase to £18.75m. The allocation to festivals rose by 36 per cent to £240,000.

The council's grant-in-aid from the Government was £69m, but it carried forward commitments totalling £6.4m into 1980-81 and that figure is likely to rise to about £7m for 1981-82.

No money will be available for a musical in the foreseeable future, although the two council guaranteed on their tours, Oklahoma, still running, and My Fair Lady, which made £750,000, were both highly successful.

The council of management of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has written to the BBC urging it to reconsider seriously its decision to disband five orchestras.

Correction

A fall in the abortion rate in Great Britain from 9.6 per 100 live births in 1973 to 9.0 in 1979, reported on May 2, related to National Health Service abortions.

Firemen allege double standards of safety

By David Nicholson-Lord

Double standards of safety are being applied to firemen. They are being "mollycoddled" on station premises, yet exposed to unnecessary risk during fire and rescue operations.

That is the burden of criticisms made by two London firemen who together possess 18 years' operational experience, and one of the brigade's senior officers, the Fire Brigades Union's chief safety representative in London, says in a letter to the fireground, not to simulate it. "You could argue on that basis we should all practise jumping out of second-floor windows."

Mr Edward Harrington, London's assistant chief officer responsible for training, believes there is a need for more rigorous training, such as the simulated "fire-house" used for officers at the Fire Service Technical College. He doubts, however, that that view would be shared by the union.

Many of the criticisms of equipment are about communications. Yet the field telephone set

knowledge that they raise issues central to the controversy over the application of the Health and Safety at Work Act to the fire service, as well as to the technological difficulties facing brigades.

Managers and unions point in reply to the brigade's responsibilities under the Act, its liabilities for accidents on station premises, and the need to remove unnecessary hazards.

Training officer John Jones, the Fire Brigades Union's chief safety representative in London, says is designed to prepare men for the fireground, not to simulate it. "You could argue on that basis we should all practise jumping out of second-floor windows."

Mr Edward Harrington, London's assistant chief officer responsible for training, believes there is a need for more rigorous training, such as the simulated "fire-house" used for officers at the Fire Service Technical College. He doubts, however, that that view would be shared by the union.

Many of the criticisms of equipment are about communications. Yet the field telephone set

nationally approved for use with breathing apparatus, and carried only on London's 11 divisional control units, is said to be viewed by most firemen as a "joke". Mr Watson says he has never known it to be used in 12 years.

Officers reject that criticism, although according to Mr Peter Darby, London's chief fire officer, the men's views on the use of the set appear to imply a training deficiency on the part of the brigades' communications equipment generally. "It needs to be improved and will be improved," but he believes the Evac personal radio system introduced in London three years ago means that the brigade now has a first-hand communication system advanced as anybody in the world.

Mr Darby says that London has suffered from technological backwardness and insularity, but that that is being overcome by introducing equipment in operation elsewhere. A £2m plan to computerize mobilization of appliances, for instance, will save about 30 seconds in response time, at present lost through the slowness of station teleprinters. That plan is expected to come

into operation in three years. An anti-skidding device is being fitted to all new appliances ordered since last year.

He points to the rapid technological changes occurring, particularly in fields such as radio communications, chemicals, and lifting and cutting gear used for rescue work in road accidents. That is another area of concern cited by the firemen.

Mr Darby says that new equipment is constantly evaluated but he adds that it is developing so rapidly that it is outdated "almost instantly". After completing a programme to supply all firemen with compressed air breathing apparatus, for example, the sets are now being converted to positive pressure as a further safety improvement.

London, Mr Darby believes, is taking "comprehensive and expensive" steps to safeguard both firemen and the public. Widespread provision of equipment to cater for every possible contingency would not only be uneconomic, he says, it would also mean that fire appliances would "very rapidly begin to look like Christmas trees."

Concluded

More crime but fewer offences are solved

From Stewart Tandler

Scarborough

Britain must recognize the police service "is an important indispensable service we have," Mr Griffiths, Conservative MP for Scarborough, said at the annual conference of the Police Federation borough.

Damage or discredit to the police service would be the loss, he said.

Britain faced a situation which was half in a few years: a had trebled, vandalism, burglaries increased by 50 per cent and violent offences by 100 per cent.

Yet rates of clearance of offences had fallen. A burglary and thefts in 1978-79 had fallen to 1970-71 levels. In 1978-79 children under 17 were 33 per cent of the total, but in 1970-71 only 14 per cent were in those and other offences.

Mr Griffiths, parliamentary consultant to the Federation, said the answer must be supervision. The power of magistrates to send juveniles to prison should be used to the full.

He also said that the police had lost the battle back capital punishment was ready to fight against Common Law when the realized the price of likely to cost them.

There had been talk of sentencing some juveniles to prison, but they should not violent criminals, who go to prison.

On race relations he said police officers of colour and "colour blindness" but the federation he the subject more serious.

Referring to a report this week to the suspected person Griffiths said: "I would like to see some other things, as because a similar law introduced in Scotland."

Reflecting on a recent Northern Ireland, he said changes made at the police police interviewers at Castlereagh mean that had been tilted towards the terrorist. Prisoners be specifically asked if complaints about them, and IRA men the simple fact of allegation would, less officer's suspension.

People and Their Families (Statistical Office, £5.30).

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People and Their Families (Statistical Office, £5

NEWS

Gun raiders flee £325,000 after back on security van

Witherow, some armed with pistols, smashed the windscreen of a Express van in north London yesterday and escaped £325,000.

The van was blocked by the van's own car in the street, close to Islington, and held up several vans and lorries at the junction.

The robbers smashed the windscreen of the van with a sledgehammer and the driver, a man in his 30s, fled in a panic. The robbers then searched the van and found a large sum of money, including £325,000, and a number of gold watches and other valuables.

The robbers then fled in a van, and the police are currently searching for them. The van was found abandoned in a street in north London.

Woman sent to Rampton as child is released

From Our Correspondent
Grimsby

A woman who has been in Rampton special security hospital for 29 years because her parents could not cope with her when she was 10 years old was allowed to leave yesterday.

Miss Stella Maltson, aged 41, originally of Waltham, Grimsby, south Humberside, was sent to Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire, after her parents said they could not manage her. Two years later she was transferred to Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire.

A psychiatrist has described her as harmless, with a mental age of seven. He added that she should not have been in the special hospital.

Mrs Iris Rainthorpe, aged 68, a farmer's wife, of Sycamore Farm, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, who has campaigned for Miss Maltson's release, said yesterday that she had been four years in a private home.

"Stella is a gentle creature, and has gone through a good deal. She ought never to have been in Rampton in the first place, and she has to catch up with her life," Mrs Rainthorpe said.

Mrs Rainthorpe has tried to get Miss Maltson moved for several years, and sought support in Waltham, where a 500-signature petition was collected.

She also brought in an independent psychiatrist to look at the mental health board agreed to allow Miss Maltson's release provided that she had somewhere to go. Mrs Rainthorpe, who has visited her many times, says that if her child's pranks had happened now she would just have been sent to a children's home.

Her case was mentioned in a television programme on Rampton. Mrs Rainthorpe started the petition for her release as part of a national campaign to help Rampton patients.

She said that efforts to have her transferred to a hospital for the subnormal founded when a mental health tribunal decided it could do nothing to get her moved unless someone was prepared to look after her.

'Tragic Kelly case used for an almost neurotic attack on police service generally' Chief Constable denies charge of Gestapo methods

By John Chastres

The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, yesterday joined many of his fellow senior police officers in a spirited defence against recent criticisms of his service.

His annual report for 1979 contained strongly worded ripostes to members of his local authority police committee who have attacked him.

Mr Oxford said in his report: "During this year I and my officers in Merseyside have been at the centre of the most concentrated criticism touching upon our integrity and honesty of purpose."

"Such allegations often of a biased nature from predictable vociferous groups bent on the disestablishment of democratic policing have been supported by so-called investigative journalists."

"There are some who masquerade this type of journalism and are patently incapable of detecting truth but enjoy short-lived fame which ultimately in my opinion, cannot and does not sustain forensic examination."

Mr Oxford said that the case

of Mr James Kelly, who died while in police custody at Huyton police station, had been used to sustain an "almost neurotic attack on the police service generally."

He continued: "What was said is misrepresented and I and my senior officers would not have pursued our statutory responsibilities had it not been for such journalistic disclosure. This is completely unfounded and without truth."

"The tragic Kelly case was further cited to illustrate my reluctance to inform my police authority of matters pertinent to their responsibility; again completely unfounded and untrue, but unfortunately seized upon by those who question the accountability of chief police officers."

In his report Mr Oxford sets out his legally constituted position in an appendix which reads: "In recent weeks there has been intensive, and from some quarters almost incessant, comment regarding a number of apparently unrelated incidents involving officers of the Merseyside police, and in particular those stations in the Moseley K division."

"Additionally vituperative, misinformed comment has been made by members of the county council but more unfortunately by members of the police committee all of which has implied, in relation to these incidents, that the chief constable has 'refused to discuss' the circumstances when it would in their views have been appropriate for him to do so."

Mr Oxford has set out in the appendix details of section 49 of the 1964 Police Act regarding complaints by the public, in the hope that it would "be helpful to members of the police committee and hopefully others."

On his personal position Mr Oxford has said in his report: "I am confident that my professional integrity, honesty of purpose and command responsibility as chief constable will be upheld following upon inquiry and underwritten upon the due processes of law which must ensue, are completed in the Kelly case."

Until then, I and those under my command, must keep our silence in the face of flimsy criticism and unfounded allegations."

"Nevertheless, what has manifested itself in the past year when relating to the Kelly case the grave calamities that have been visited upon the Merseyside police in particular, the British police service, and chief officers of police in general, is that public interest and opinion is stifled by ignorance and not apathy."

"Such ignorance is maintained by emotive rhetoric and hyperbole by those groups who unfortunately postulate their prejudice as their principles, and this is ever present in Merseyside which in part reflects the despair of the region, aided and abetted by those of some of the media and journalism who would seem to have lost the ability to inform but concentrate on selective sensationalism."

The manner in which the members of this force have carried out their duties during the year of 1979 reflects great credit on all concerned; that they have been able to maintain their enthusiasm, their morale, and their dedication in the face of the hostile criticism that has been levelled at the police service and this force is a considerable achievement and worthy of the highest praise."

In a further point in his appendix, Mr Oxford says that in refusing ill-timed and, in some cases, irresponsible demands he personally attracted the charge of "gestapo methods" and that it had also been alleged that his refusal to comment implied a breakdown of trust between himself and the police committee.

"Such charges are refuted and are without supportive evidence."

The Times understands that Mr Oxford wrote his report in time for the printers before the verdict in the resumed inquest into the death of Mr Kelly on April 16. The misadventure was generally interpreted as an exoneration of the four policemen involved but internal disciplinary proceedings are believed to be continuing.

Mr Kelly's family stated at the close of the inquest that they intended to go on pressing for a public inquiry.

Mr Oxford declined yesterday to bring up to date his report or comment further. It was presented to the Merseyside County Council police committee yesterday.

ng on warders later

of Appeal reserved yesterday in the case of prison officers who suspended a man in the aftermath of riots at Hull prison.

The officers are seeking leave of absence on grounds of assault and beat.

The suspended officers are: Kevin Burns, aged 31, Steven Hewson, aged 28, and Malcolm Stevenson, aged 48, all of Sutton Park, Hull; George Clarke, aged 31, of Sutton Park, Hull; and Peter Watson, aged 28, of Balmfargate Avenue, both Hull; Maurice Budd, aged 49, of Pasarsfield Close, Leyland, Lancashire; and Anthony Burnstead, aged 28, of Wetherhampton, near Wolverhampton; and Andrew Wilson, aged 29, of Heversham Close, Blackwood, Warrington, Cheshire.

alleged, gave rise to revenge attacks on prisoners.

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Aluminium fights fumes from burning furniture

From Ronald Faux
Burntisland

Specialists in aluminium chemistry believe that they have a cheap and effective answer to lethal fires in foam-filled furniture.

British Aluminium has invested £10m in recent years at its plant at Burntisland, Fifeshire, in developing a process which would follow American and Scandinavian in outlawing untreated furnishing materials and carpets.

The company is disturbed by the Government's reaction to an inquiry report on the disaster at the Woolworth's store in Manchester, in which 10 people were killed by poisonous fumes from burning furniture foam.

The Government has introduced regulations controlling the display of furniture containing polyurethane foam, but has not controlled the use of such material.

The Burntisland plant produces among a variety of aluminium chemicals a grade of aluminium hydroxide called BACO FRF. One third of the material is water encapsulated in crystals of powder. When material treated with the hydroxide catches fire the water is released as a dampening steam that suppresses flames and inhibits the formation of poisonous gas.

Mr John Case, managing director of British Aluminium Chemicals, said: "We are very disturbed that the Government is so slow in accepting that control is essential to minimize the lethal nature of this kind of fire. In America, 300,000 tons of aluminium hydroxide are used every year in treating most synthetic materials used in the home."

"The law insists on it. The cost is low compared with the protection provided, no more than 10p for a square yard of carpet that might easily cost £10."

He said the British Government had acknowledged the value of the material by accepting that certain critical standards of fire protection in public buildings or on passenger aircraft were satisfied when it was used in furniture or fittings. Such stringent standards had not, however, been extended to the domestic market.

British Aluminium has created and held a large part of the Scandinavian market for the material. Given legislation, a large market would open up in Britain and the EEC, which could be served from Burntisland.

Prison officers ready for action

From Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Hastings

Forty branches of the Prison Officers' Association have submitted contingency plans for industrial action to their headquarters. Mr John Bartell, a member of the national executive, said yesterday at the association's annual conference in Hastings.

He was disclosing the broad outlines of a national plan, ready for action down to local level, to be coordinated from the association's headquarters. Other branches are also expected to submit their plans.

"The object of the exercise is secrecy and surprise," Mr Bartell said. "All action taken will need to be effective so as to ensure that there is a speedy end to the dispute."

What would trigger such action nationally is not yet clear, but threats continued to rumble around the conference yesterday.

Mr John Gunning, of Ashford, who was one of the dissidents organizing protests that in 1978 brought the system to the verge of breakdown, said that if there was no action nationally in pursuit of payment for meal breaks taken during an extension of duty "we shall take industrial action."

The conference voted to call on the TUC to do all in its power to persuade the Government to hold a referendum on the reintroduction of capital punishment.

Mr James MacLachlan, of Thorp Arch, West Yorkshire, addressed himself to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, who was at the conference on Tuesday: "You introduced the death penalty in

How to give some laws more status than others

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Professor H. W. R. Wade, in the second of his Hamlyn lectures, delivered yesterday, offered a solution to Britain's constitutional dilemma over giving some laws, a Bill of Rights, for instance, greater status than others.

Most legal and constitutional experts, he pointed out, believed that because Parliament was sovereign and could pass any law it liked, it would be impossible to entrench any particular law; any subsequent Parliament would always have the right to repeal the entrenchment procedure, or pass a law in conflict with the entrenched law.

He gave as an example the Act under which Britain joined the European Community.

Although that specifically states that EEC law is binding even on future British Acts of Parliament, it has been made clear, by Lord Denning among others, that such a provision could not be binding, and that judges would follow whatever the most recent Act provided.

Professor Wade's "easy way out" is to change the form of the judicial oath. "If we should wish to adopt a new form of constitution... all that need be done is to put the judges under oath to enforce it."

If it was decided to entrench a Bill of Rights, judges would take an oath to recognize it and to refuse validity to any Acts of Parliament, including future Acts, that conflicted with it.

Prices tender to feared

Rayton Correspondent
and food manufactured yesterday about raise food prices in they agreed on only that the Government should to surrender its

ed that a rise of 5 in EEC prices was effect in Britain year. The National Union said that the be too low.

Chocolate and Fry Alliance, how represents large like Cadbury's and the increase could ifed when the Com large and growing uses.

and Butler, president U, which represents 100,000 farmers, r: "It is clear that cannot give any part istry much hope or o work for the exch the Government art of its policy."

ion wanted a rise n the 7.5 per cent y farmers in other ries. Mr Butler e face the highest ate in Europe. Any ch meets European us must fall short of

Boys found dead in pit shaft after night search

From Our Correspondent
Wigan

A policeman's torch, shone into the darkness of an old pit shaft at Ashburton-Makerfield, near Wigan, at dawn yesterday, revealed the bodies of Barry Gough, aged 11, and Anthony Jones, aged 13, for whom an all-night search had been mounted when they failed to return home. Police believe the boys had been bird-nesting and had fallen into the shaft, on land adjoining the local golf club.

Anthony Jones's father, Mr Thomas Jones, aged 35, plant hire operator, of Windsor Road, Ashburton, said: "That shaft is an open invitation to every child and I want an inquiry to discover who is responsible."

Police yesterday were awaiting the result of a post-mortem examination, but suspect the children were asphyxiated by poisonous gases.

Peach jury to be sent out next Tuesday

By a Staff Reporter

The jury at the inquest on Mr Blair Peach, the teacher from New Zealand, died from a head injury during a demonstration against the National Front at Southall, London, in April last year, will not be sent out to consider their verdict until Tuesday, it was decided yesterday.

The decision came after the jury told Dr John Burton, the coroner at Hammersmith, that they thought they might take more than one day to deliberate.

Dr Burton plans to complete the bulk of his summing-up today.

Roman walk unearthed

Part of a Roman wall has been unearthed in South Street, Chichester, Sussex. Mr Alec Down, director of excavations, said yesterday that it was probably the remains of a large public building.

men jailed ail robbery on appeal

u serving long sen- the Irish Republic for robbery involving on a mail train were appeal yesterday.

Bernard MacNally, t Swords, co Dublin, serving nine years, Brethnach, aged 27, k, co Dublin. He was 12 years. They are d the Irish Republic Party, the political the Irish National Army.

Thomas Finlay, pres- High Court in Dub- Appeal Court was at statements made no men were not imissible.

years' jail for National Front man

Matthews, aged 44, firma, of National, p, was sentenced by Mars-Jones at the iminal Court yester- years' imprisonment to set fire to a print- used by the Socialist tary.

It was told that Mr a dustcart driver, her men were foiled air plans had been on a crossed tele- hews, of Lorrmore Valworth; Stephen 18, a painter and of Lorrmore Road, and Stephen Fitz- ed 18, a painter and of Tyler Street, Ken al London, all ility to possessing ical thunder flashes,

petrol and wires, intending to set them to destroy the Union Place Resource Centre in Vassall Road, Brixton, London, last November.

Mr Beals was sentenced to three years' jail and Mr Fitzpatrick was sent for borstal training.

Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, said Mr Matthews, a former chairman of the Southwark branch of the National Front, Mr Beals, a fully paid-up member, and Mr Fitzpatrick, a Front sympathizer, decided to attack the march through London. The next day the three men went to the premises with the equip- ment to set up an electrically detonated petrol bomb.

They intended to make a bang and a flash so that the people inside would call the fire brigade and in the commotion would notice that National Front slogans had been painted on the walls. They were caught when workers inside shone floodlights into the garden.

They had prepared for the attack as Mr Peter Gill, aged 27, a social worker at the premises, which is also used as an ethnic community centre and tenants' association premi- had overheard a telephone call when he got a crossed line.

Mr Beals and another man were saying that the centre was going to be "done."

The judge commended Mr Gill, of John Ruskin Street, Camberwell, and ordered that he be paid £100 from public funds.

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PARLIAMENT, May 22, 1980

Premature action to cut interest rate would be foolish

House of Commons
There was no intention on the Government's part to cut the rate, Mr. John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said during exchanges about the interest rate. We are not quitters (he said).

Mr. Biffen (Oswestry, C) informed Mr. Robert C. (Leigham, Lab) that the Government had received a number of representations from employers' organisations, individual businessmen, and industrialists regarding a reduction in the rate of interest.

Mr. C. said it is not true that the CBI are making much more strenuous efforts to get the Government to change this lunatic policy of high interest rates which is ruining small firms.

Will the Chief Secretary accept that many of these organisations want the Government to do something about the massive profits the banks are creaming off? If the Government are unable to act will the Chief Secretary and his cronies get out of office and resign? (Labour cheers.)

Mr. Biffen—It is our determination to pursue a monetary policy which will necessarily include the current level of interest rates until there are such tangible signs of success that a reduction in the leading rate can be embarked upon wisely and with prudence. Any premature action would be foolish.

Mr. Biffen, answering later question, said: We believe that a fall in interest rates at this moment, unless it was clearly indicated by market conditions, would have a serious impact on the Government's monetary target.

The subject of high interest rates arose earlier when Sir Geoffrey Howe (East Surrey, C) replied: Since the measures of last November there has been a marked reduction in the rate of money supply.

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton, C)—This is welcome progress but will the Chancellor accept that while

the timing of this matter must be for his judgement, it should be an exercise of judgement for the Government to bring down the level of interest rates, (Cheers.)

Sir Geoffrey Howe—We do not wish to see a move in that direction which cannot be justified by the movement of all the factors in the monetary market.

Mr. Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Leeds, East, Lab), said: Can the Chancellor answer the question of the CBI on Tuesday? If the Chancellor can boast that he has the money supply under control, why is he keeping interest rates at this punitive level, particularly since they are having little or no effect on bank lending to private business but are having a disastrous effect on the value of the pound which rose 4 cents yesterday, partly in response to the change in interest rates between ourselves and the United States?

Sir Geoffrey Howe—A more significant factor was the movement in oil prices. I need no reminding that the case made to me on Tuesday night for a reduction in interest rates as soon as possible.

Interest rates are one of the factors affecting bank lending. The increase in bank lending is still being sustained. We wish to see that the evidence upon which we are making our decisions is sound.

Mr. Healey—These enormous and punitive interest rates are having little effect on the volume of bank lending but a disastrous effect on business liquidity and the value of the pound.

If he is to stick to these punitive rates, why is the Chancellor boasting, rightly or wrongly, that he has the money supply under control?

Sir Geoffrey Howe—Mr. Healey characteristically overstates almost every aspect of the argument. The money supply is under control.

Mr. Healey—The money supply is under control, but the rate of interest is not. The rate of interest is a factor which affects the money supply.

Couple's £1,000 Bill before marriage

House of Lords
A man and his stepdaughter who wished to marry each other in the twilight of their lives were told that a "very special" £1,000 bill would be required to enable them to marry.

Lord Hailsham of Sturges (Lab), who moved the second reading of the Bill, said that the £1,000 bill was a "very special" bill which would enable them to marry despite existing law.

He said the measure, a personal Bill, would apply to Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward alone and that the Personal Bills Committee which considered their petition were unanimous in their support.

Mr. Barry, aged 62, is a retired engineer, married to Mrs. Ward's mother in 1943, only three weeks after Mrs. Ward, now aged 58, was herself married. It was Mrs. Ward's mother's second marriage.

Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward's children were now adults.

After Mrs. Ward's death, Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward wished to marry but the relationship between them fell within the prohibited degree of affinity even though there was no blood relationship between them.

They lived apart and did not want to live as a couple, and until they were permitted to marry, they lived in separate homes.

There is (he said) no ethical, moral, religious or social objection to such a marriage.

The Bishop of London supported the Bill. He said if ever there was a case which merited the sympathetic consideration of peers it was this.

Should the Bill become an Act the marriage would be by reason of statute law but was banned by canon law, part of the law of England.

A clergyman invited to conduct the marriage would be free so far as Parliament was concerned but would be in danger of committing an ecclesiastical offence though, in his judgement it would be only a minor one.

This, he said, is a problem for the Church to solve. A bishop would be within his rights in granting a dispensation from the effects of the canon law in such a case once such a marriage was no longer void or a nullity.

This Bill required peers to look into the future and he would not wish his support of it to prejudice any view on the right of marriage to be made to wider the rules governing marriage between those related by affinity.

Serious social insecurity could result from any widespread relaxation, he said, and I should wish to stress such dangers.

He said so much when they should not at some appropriate time introduce legislation to make

it easier, in such cases as that of Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward, to be permitted legally to marry without requiring recourse to such a laborious and expensive process as that of promoting personal Bills.

Lady Wootton of Abinger (Lab), who earlier tried to get a Bill moved for Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward's marriage, said this case was in peccable. The vision which had haunted many opponents of her was that of a vulnerable young woman persuaded by a lascivious step-father.

She hoped Mr. Barry and Mrs. Ward would have a happy marriage for many years to come. They were of mature age, both their marriages had ended in death and not in divorce, and they were deeply religious people.

No better or no more acceptable special case (she said) can be thought of.

Lord Clifford (C) said he was slightly apprehensive that if the Bill was passed it might be used as a precedent to advance many others. He did not think it right, however, much he sympathised with this couple, that the House should reverse a principle on a private Bill.

Lord Hampton (Lab) said he supported the view that there were two people who should be allowed to marry. He hoped that if the House agreed it would be accepted that it was on the side of compassion.

Lord Robertson of Oakridge (Ind) said there must be the possibility that the passing of this Bill would be followed by the weakening of the existing law and it would be used as the end of the wedge to amend common law principles.

Lord Statton of Faversham (Lab), for the Opposition, said that if the House passed this Bill it would not necessarily be conceding the view that the law should be present prevented from marrying because of a relationship of affinity should be allowed to marry.

Was the House prepared to insist that everybody who sought such permission should have to go through the same lengthy procedure? The total cost of presenting a Bill of this kind was in the region of £1,000.

Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said the Bill involved nothing wrong in a personal Bill of this kind.

Lord Hailsham said the Bill was not necessary to concede the view that the law should be present prevented from marrying because of a relationship of affinity should be allowed to marry.

He hoped this Bill went through and it would be a happy marriage at the end of it.

The Bill was read a second time.

Trade unions to share in cost of strikes

The Social Security (No 2) Bill completed its passage through the Commons early today when it received its third reading by 290 votes to 239—Government majority, 51.

There were exactly the same voting figures in another division immediately before that rejecting any Opposition amendment to delete from the Bill clause 6 (Supplementary benefit in cases affected by trade disputes) which was only for paying the first £12 of supplementary benefit on to the trade union concerned.

Mr. Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on social services (East Devon, Lab), said the Government was being put in a category that made them worse off than a person who had been convicted of a crime.

The clause was not designed to save public expenditure. The House was dealing with a small amount of benefit to strikers' families. The saving in a normal year would be about £100,000.

The clause was anti-trade unionist, aimed at the trade union movement in a vindictive way because the Government believed it was popular with the public point of view. It would affect lockouts. Where an employer, rightly or wrongly, locked out employees they could not be able to claim supplementary benefit for their families.

The proposal was divisive and vindictive and aimed at a section of the community who were being treated separately and

worse than any other section who had recourse to supplementary benefit. People did not go on strike lightly. He warned the Government that if they did not change the clause it would not continue to have success on that scale.

James Lester, Under Secretary of Employment (Bristol, C), said he wanted to correct the impression that the clause was an attempt to penalise the trade union movement and to make great claims about May 14. It was happy that the Government would draw its own conclusions.

The Government was trying to bring about a balance between the financial obligations of unions and management. The Government was trying to change the trend which became apparent in 1966 and to transfer part of the cost of strike action to a trade union.

The Government was trying to bring a sense of reason and responsibility between those who caused strike benefits to members on strike and those who paid nothing. There was a great variation of benefits between unions who paid members on strike.

The central proposal (he said) is to reduce the benefit paid to a family involved in strike by £12 a week. This is designed to ensure that all unions face up to the financial responsibility of the action they have called.

In the 1970s the nature of strike action had changed. That was why the Government had such wide

Closing gap between pay and efficiency a sound policy

A policy which tries to close the gap between increased pay and efficiency could be called a pay policy and was the only sound policy, Mr. Denis Healey, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said.

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry, C) asked—Will the Prime Minister remind trade union leaders that pay has risen 12 per cent more than prices over three years, while output has risen by more than 5 per cent?

In expressing the hope that we are about to enter the post-Clegg era, a closer link between increases in pay and increases in efficiency may be necessary.

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Lab)—Will she arrange to meet representatives of the nurses? Does she regard herself as bound by the commitment she made to the nurses just over a year ago? Will she say how she proposes to carry out that promise?

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have had that amount, they will have had the same increases as the nurses since 1978, assuming that the nurses take the 14 per cent increase this year.

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about of "Early retirement" and "Send him a farewell card." Will Mrs. Thatcher be wishing him many happy returns or does she think his age and his recent decisions eminently qualify him and his commission for early retirement?

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WEST EUROPE

Errors in accounts of EC Commission indicted by MPs

George Clark, Financial Correspondent

Accounts of the EEC Commission are incomplete and shed financial statements of enable the reader to a clear insight into the unit's financial affairs. A criticism, voiced by the of Auditors, who ex- d the accounts for 1979, endorsed yesterday by the ions Select Committee on Legislation in a report to the House.

The court gave examples of errors and concluded "the overall effectiveness of the Commission's internal control is a matter of concern".

The balance sheet, it also lacked an ation of the accounting ples applied and failed to other information needed full understanding of the

As appears to us in con- s a severe indictment of accounts, and it would be sting to know whether the of Auditors, would, if ed explicitly to certify consider that giving a and fair view of the affairs Community", the Com- mittee said.

The committee recommended as Commons that the of report raised questions gal and political impor- and should be debated House.

Outlook worsens for cuts British EEC payments

Ed Emery, Editor

Outlook has worsened staling Britain's demand ational elimination of its contribution of more than m to the EEC budget, it greed in Whitehall yes-

worsening assessment rst been disclosed by Mr s Haughey, the Irish Minister, who discussed ing his Downing Street with Mrs Margaret ter on Wednesday.

Haughey said he was n optimistic because both est German and French ments had withdrawn fers they made in vain ain at Luxembourg.

yan accused r Rome order attempt

e, May 22.—A young charged with the ted murder of a rest owner told police here he had been sent from to kill "an enemy of ople".

aroui Belgazem was d last night minutes iring three shots at Salem ed Fezzani, a naturalized who was born in Libya.

s unhurt.

as the second attack in rs against Rome's Libyan nity. A businessman was strangled on Tuesday, the Libyan exile killed here past three months.

Libyan have also been ed in London and one in Boon, Beirut and

t murder: Abu Bakr Rahman, aged 23, from was found murdered in rtment in a working- Athens suburb yesterday. man had been living in for about a month, work- a factory. Local resi- claimed that he had been of the regime of Colonel fi and refused to return country, despite please sis mother.

Libyan Embassy here d complete ignorance of an, who was the first to be murdered here.

ters jailed in sterdam

rdam, May 22.—Eleven who took part in riots the inauguration of Beatrix in April were ced in the Amsterdam Court today to prison ranging from one to four s.

heaviest sentences were to a Moroccan and an uman, who were found by urt to have been in the ut of fights between strators trying to disrupt ration ceremonies and lence. Under Dutch prac- names of those con- were not released.—AP.

ocialists criticize Warsaw visit

Our Own Correspondent

May 22

François Mitterrand, of the French Socialist has said it was perfectly for President Giscard ng to meet President ev, and that he did not o ask anyone's permis-

he reproached him with o Warsaw in full know- that he would not obtain ing from the Russians. "If resident brings back such s shows a certain imper- on the part of Soviet towards us", M Mitter- id in a television inter- st night.

d it shows a certain ss on the part of France s her talking partners. are made any progress? sly not. Has unrest in-

Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South, and Chairman of the Safeguard Britain Campaign, who is a member of the Select Committee, said last night: "The comments of the Court of Auditors, if applied to a British company, would require a Government investigation and possibly an order to cease trading".

"When the Commons debated the report, MPs would want to know a lot more about the EEC internal controls which were, according to the court, "a matter of concern" and why, for a second year running, the accounts did not even meet the EEC's own financial regulations.

"The report states that in 1979 two member states (not named, but understood by us to be the United Kingdom and Germany) accounted for 79 per cent by number and 88 per cent by value of the total cases reported. . . no solution has yet been found by the Commission to the problem of dealing with amounts definitively lost as the result of irregularities.

"Procedures for dealing with frauds and irregularities are still far from satisfactory. Indeed, member states do not even agree on what constitutes an irregularity."

Thirty First Report on the Select Committee on European Legislation, Financial Control in the Community. (Stationary Office, £1.25).



Winter returns to Finland with a May snowfall in Helsinki yesterday.

Refund on budget unlikely in 1982

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, May 22

Britain's net contribution to the EEC budget could rise to more than £1,400m next year, and any financial relief the rest of the Community agreed to grant Britain to reduce this burden would be likely to exhaust the Nine's existing sources of revenue by 1982.

This is the grim financial picture which emerges from the latest calculations prepared by the European Commission for a crucial series of meetings in Brussels next week at which the Nine will attempt to break the deadlock over Britain's contribution to the Community budget.

Despite the lack of progress last weekend in Naples it is still hoped that a meeting of finance ministers here next Tuesday will be able to prepare the ground for a final compromise to be thrashed out by foreign and agricultural ministers later in the week.

The new figures produced by the Commission estimate Britain's net contribution this year at £1,088m. However, British officials believe that the deficit will actually be nearer £1,160m because the rising value of sterling has eliminated the EEC subsidy on British food imports.

The Commission's calculations takes into account the 5 per cent EEC farm price increase which at the moment is being blocked by Britain, but which Mrs Margaret Thatcher is expected to concede as part of a budget deal.

In 1981, assuming that agricultural expenditure increases by 18 per cent, the Commission estimates that Britain would suffer a net deficit of £1,415m. The only other net contributor would be West Germany, to the tune of £854m.

Six member states would get more out of the budget than they paid in: Italy, £537m; Ireland, £427m; Belgium and Holland, £375m each; Denmark, £254m and Luxembourg £195m. France would be in exact balance.

A separate set of figures, assuming an increase in agricultural expenditure of only 12 per cent, would leave Britain next year with a slightly lower deficit of £1,365m.

The Commission's calculations can be taken as fairly conservative because agricultural expenditure, which takes up more than 70 per cent of the budget and from which other member states, has been growing at an annual rate of more than 20 per cent in recent years.

Spanish censure motion has little chance of success in Cortes

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, May 22

In spite of an assurance of Communist support for a Socialist sponsored censure motion, to be voted on by the Spanish Parliament next Tuesday, the chances of Señor Felipe González replacing Señor Adolfo Suárez as Prime Minister appeared very slim here today.

Señor González, the Opposition leader announced a censure motion yesterday during the second day of what Spaniards are calling the "great debate", a series of special parliamentary sessions in which the Prime Minister, who is the leader of the Centre Democratic Union (UCD) is defending his Government's policies at a time of increasing troubles on all domestic fronts.

The censure motion surprised most MPs because it will be almost impossible for Señor González, whose Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) has only 121 seats, to muster the rest of the 176 votes needed for the absolute majority required for the motion's success.

Even by joining forces with the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), the Andalusian Socialist Party (PSA) the Catalan deputies, the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and an assortment of smaller parties represented in the Cortes, Señor González would still need at least one breakaway vote from Señor Suárez's party.

To further complicate matters it is unlikely that the Basque votes will go to either the Socialists or the Centre Party, since the PNV has been boycotting the Cortes for several months in protest over alleged delay on the part of the central Government in turning over authority in certain sectors to the newly constituted home-rule government in the Basque country.

Señor Suárez had no objection to the call for a vote of censure, he said. Questioned about it shortly after Señor González's speech, he said that he was "not in the least disturbed".

He added: "I am surprised that the PSOE did not present such a motion before. It is a perfectly constitutional mechanism and they are within their rights in using it. I am not bitter. I would be if it should break up the UCD, but I consider that impossible because I have the greatest faith in the Centre Party people."

M Poniatowski hits back at accusers

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, May 22

One cannot but admire the resilience and self-confidence of M Michel Poniatowski, the former Minister of the Interior. He actually congratulates himself on the evidence given by M Jean Ducret, the former head of the Paris criminal police, yesterday to the parliamentary commission of inquiry.

This proved, M Poniatowski said in a radio interview today, that he did not know of the police reports on the threat of assassination against Prince Jean de Broglie, before the crime took place, contrary to the resolution tabled in the National Assembly by the Socialist Party demanding his impeachment before the High Court of Justice for "non-assistance to a person in danger".

He added that it confirmed all he had always declared about his role in the affair.

But M Poniatowski believes that attack is the best form of defence. He described as "scandalous" the attitude of the opposition press which he said now merely brought out the fact that he had been informed of the assassination threats before the sensational press conference he held in his ministry in the presence of the most senior police officials, including M Ducret.

He announced then that the investigation was already over and all the main culprits were under lock and key. It is true that M Poniatowski has never given any indication as to when he actually learnt of the assassination threats.

Another accusation in the Socialist resolution, alleged that he had violated the obligation of secrecy imposed by the code of criminal procedure by holding the press conference. He countered the accusation by saying that this rule bound only those who were involved in the judicial investigation and not the Minister of the Interior.

This was not the view taken by M Olivier Guichard, who was Minister of Justice at the time. He confirmed yesterday, also before the commission, that it was contrary to the code to present as guilty people against whom no warrant had yet been issued.

M Poniatowski challenged the Socialist and Communist members of the parliamentary commission of inquiry saying that "they have already announced their findings. By condemning without hearing, they have demonstrated their lack of impartiality and serenity", he said.

He expressed the hope that the commission's hearings would be carried to their conclusion, "in order to put an end to the political fiddle of the Socialists and Communists."

"It is an abnormal state of affairs", he said, "because when a normal, ordinary, judicial procedure has been initiated, the core of appeal last April decided there were grounds for reopening the judicial investigation into the case, that is where things should happen, and not in the context of plotting by the Opposition."

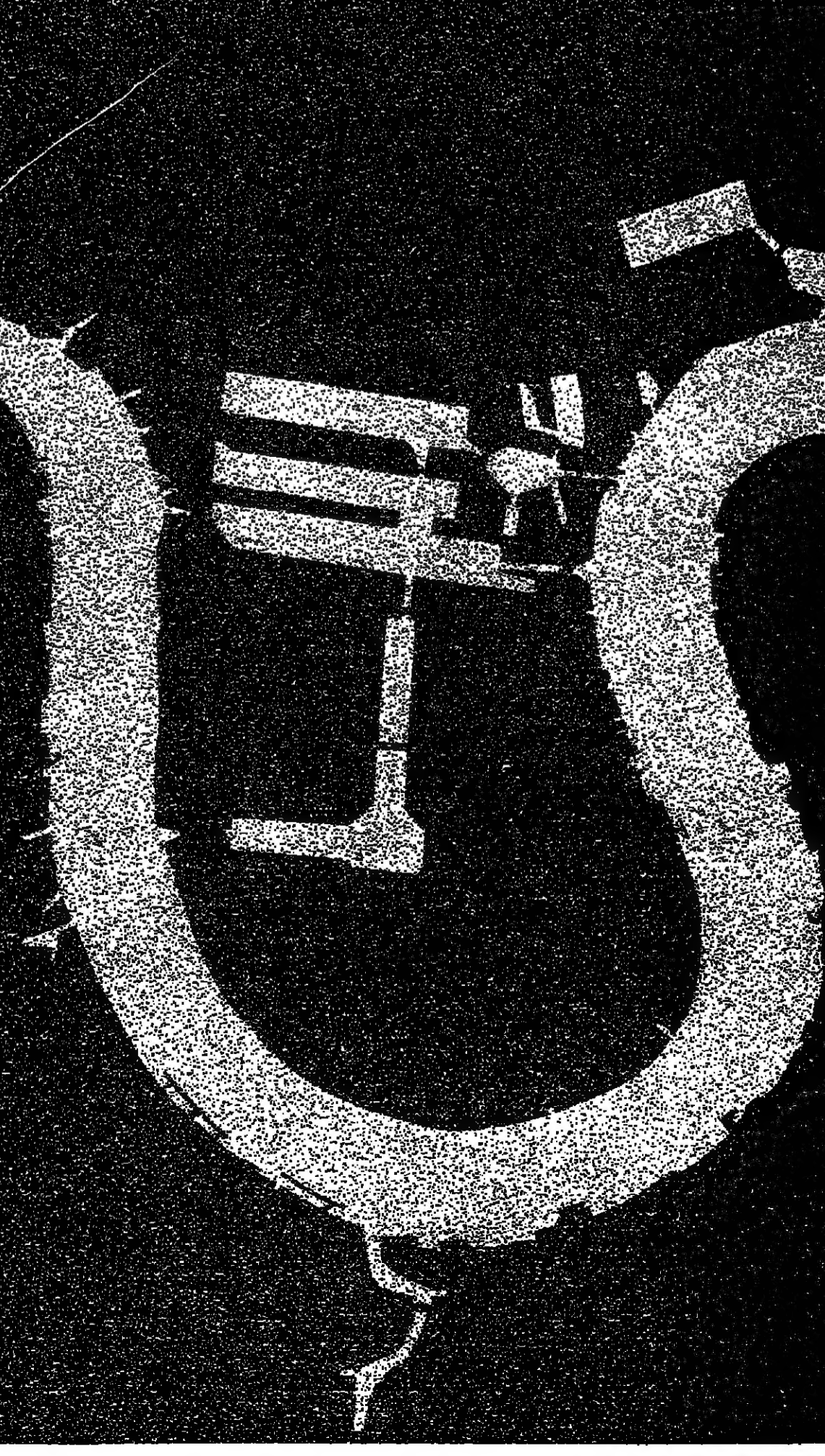
Le *Quotidien de Paris*, which cannot be described as an organ of the Opposition, even though it is something of a thorn in the flesh of the Giscardian establishment, talks about the "Ducret bombshell".

It points out that "the official version of the facts, until yesterday, was that M Jean Ducret had not transmitted the two police reports (on the assassination threats) to his superior, and that therefore M Michel Poniatowski did not even know of their existence."

The only merit of the parliamentary commission is the opinion of M Gérard Longuet, its rapporteur and close friend of M Poniatowski, was to raise the question of relations between the police and the judicial authorities, and of the reform of the obsolete provisions of the criminal code on the secrecy of judicial investigations, which was "ill adapted to the reality of things".

Next week, the commission will examine the third accusation in the Socialist resolution against M Poniatowski, of deliberately withholding documents from the judicial authorities, namely the two incriminated police reports.

THE BERTH OF BILLINGSGATE.



The world's biggest inland wholesale fish market is moving to Docklands. To a new life. Happily, the cry of the cockney fish porter, the colourful market bustle, Billingsgate, so much a part of London's pride, will be at home in familiar surroundings.

What's the bait?

Better distribution. No longer will drivers have to battle their way through narrow streets and ill tempered traffic jams. They will be free from congestion but still near to the heart of London. Rail, ship and air links are close to hand. Offering quick access to both the UK and EEC markets. To over 250m people.

Over the years Billingsgate has become sandwiched like a sardine between the city's towering blocks. The new site provides more breathing space.

Billingsgate lives

A hundred years of tradition is moving down river to a new £9m complex. Including the original weather vane and time-worn fishmongers' signs. The same bell will be ringing to declare the market open as always at six a.m.

Look at the big names netted already

Unilever, Ford, Tate & Lyle, Crosse and Blackwell and Bass Charrington are just some of the names that think it makes sound financial sense to operate from Docklands. There are many more.

No fisherman's yarn

The Docklands development is happening right now. In the next three years over £200m will be spent on improving transport systems, new housing and factory sites.

Write to The Docklands Development Organisation, Blackfriars House, 19 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6DB, for full details.



WE'LL HELP YOU MAKE MORE OF YOUR CAPITAL

OVERSEAS

KGB-tainted reporters' messages checked in Moscow against Reuters, says former colleague

In the second in a series of articles based on exclusive interviews with The Times, Ilya Dzhirkvelov, a former KGB officer and Tass correspondent who defected to Britain last month, explains the intelligence role of Russian journalists abroad and their relation to the KGB.

All Soviet correspondents abroad are agents of the KGB, to a greater or lesser extent. But according to Mr Dzhirkvelov, the information they send back to Moscow is often tailored to suit the Kremlin's view of the world. As a result, Soviet leaders receive and even act upon a distorted picture of world events.

Mr Dzhirkvelov was a full-time KGB officer until 1956, and after a spell with the Union of Journalists in Moscow became a correspondent of Tass, the Soviet news agency, overseas, first in Zanzibar (subsequently part of Tanzania) in the mid-1960s, then in Sudan at the beginning of the 1970s.

But, as he put it in his interview with The Times, as a Tass correspondent he "never lost touch" with his former colleagues in the KGB, and he was for Soviet intelligence both in East Africa and subsequently as information officer at the World Health Organization in Geneva, his last posting before his defection.

According to Mr Dzhirkvelov, some correspondents are what he describes as "pure journalists", while others are simply KGB agents who use journalism as a cover. Pure journalists send their information to Tass, which distributes it as it thinks fit, while "KGB" journalists have their own channels.

In the final analysis both perform the same function, since both act as an arm of Soviet foreign policy. A Soviet journalist, Mr Dzhirkvelov says, is by definition an agent of political intelligence, whether he works directly for the KGB or not.

While what reaches the Soviet press is tendentious and selective, what reaches the authorities tends to correspond more closely to the true state of affairs. But Mr Dzhirkvelov maintains that the authorities prefer an interpretation of events which reinforces their belief in the gradual advance of the Communist—or at least, Soviet—cause throughout the world, and tend to ignore less palatable reports and inconvenient facts.

When he was a correspondent in both Khartoum and Zanzibar, Mr Dzhirkvelov tried—according to his own account—to alert the authorities on a number of occasions to the fact that the situation was not as favourable to the Soviet interest as was believed. His instructions to him in both cases were to form close

ties with members of the Government, especially those thought to be sympathetic to Moscow.

"I was obliged", he told The Times, "to get to know leading personalities, find out the balance of forces, report back what changes were in the wind and so on. I could ask questions a more obvious KGB agent could not."

In Khartoum, Mr Dzhirkvelov reveals, he had a meeting every morning at nine o'clock with a regular KGB agent, at which he reported in detail his conversations with Sudanese figures. He also undertook intelligence missions on request.

It is KGB policy to infiltrate UN

He was dismayed to discover in 1971 that Moscow took the quite unfounded view that Sudan was ripe for a pro-Soviet coup. Mr Dzhirkvelov's knowledge of the country suggested otherwise, and he claims to have advised the authorities in Moscow and the local Soviet Embassy accordingly.

In the event the Communist coup of July, 1971, was short-lived, the conspirators were rounded up and shot, and the Soviet Ambassador was asked to leave. Mr Dzhirkvelov left Sudan discreetly soon afterwards.

After the Sudan debacle, Mr Dzhirkvelov served for several years as chief foreign editor of Tass in Moscow. He was by now identified with the KGB in the minds of African leaders, and was refused entry to Zambia by President Kaunda in 1975 when appointed by Tass to be their correspondent in Lusaka. In 1977 he was seconded to the World Health Organization in Geneva as information officer.

It is KGB policy, Mr Dzhirkvelov confirms, to infiltrate the United Nations and other international organisations. But he feels too much attention has been paid to highly placed Soviet agents in the United Nations bureaucracy, such as Mr Gely Dneprovsky, the head of United Nations personnel in Geneva.

Mr Dneprovsky, Mr Dzhirkvelov says, is important because of his access to the files of United Nations employees. But all Soviet citizens in Geneva are like Tass correspondents—agents of the KGB in some sense, and all report back their conversations with Westerners.

"Geneva", Mr Dzhirkvelov says, "is a huge centre of international espionage, the Tangiers of our time."

When he arrived at WHO, Mr Dzhirkvelov was told by his Soviet superior that his work

would be judged not by its contribution to the United Nations, but by the amount of information it yielded for the KGB. "The more you report", he was told, "the better your work will be—and the better you will feel."

Geneva is not, on the other hand, a particularly effective espionage centre for the Soviet Union. This is partly because Russians there report what they think the Kremlin wants to hear, including conversations which never took place.

Another reason is the enclosed, hothouse atmosphere in which the Soviet correspondents work. Nepotism is rife, according to Mr Dzhirkvelov, and this creates bad feeling. Also, Soviet agents in Geneva compete with one another to satisfy the KGB, with the aim of feathering their nests in Moscow once their tour of duty in the West is over.

The result, Mr Dzhirkvelov told The Times, is even more "disinformation" in the Soviet propaganda and intelligence system.

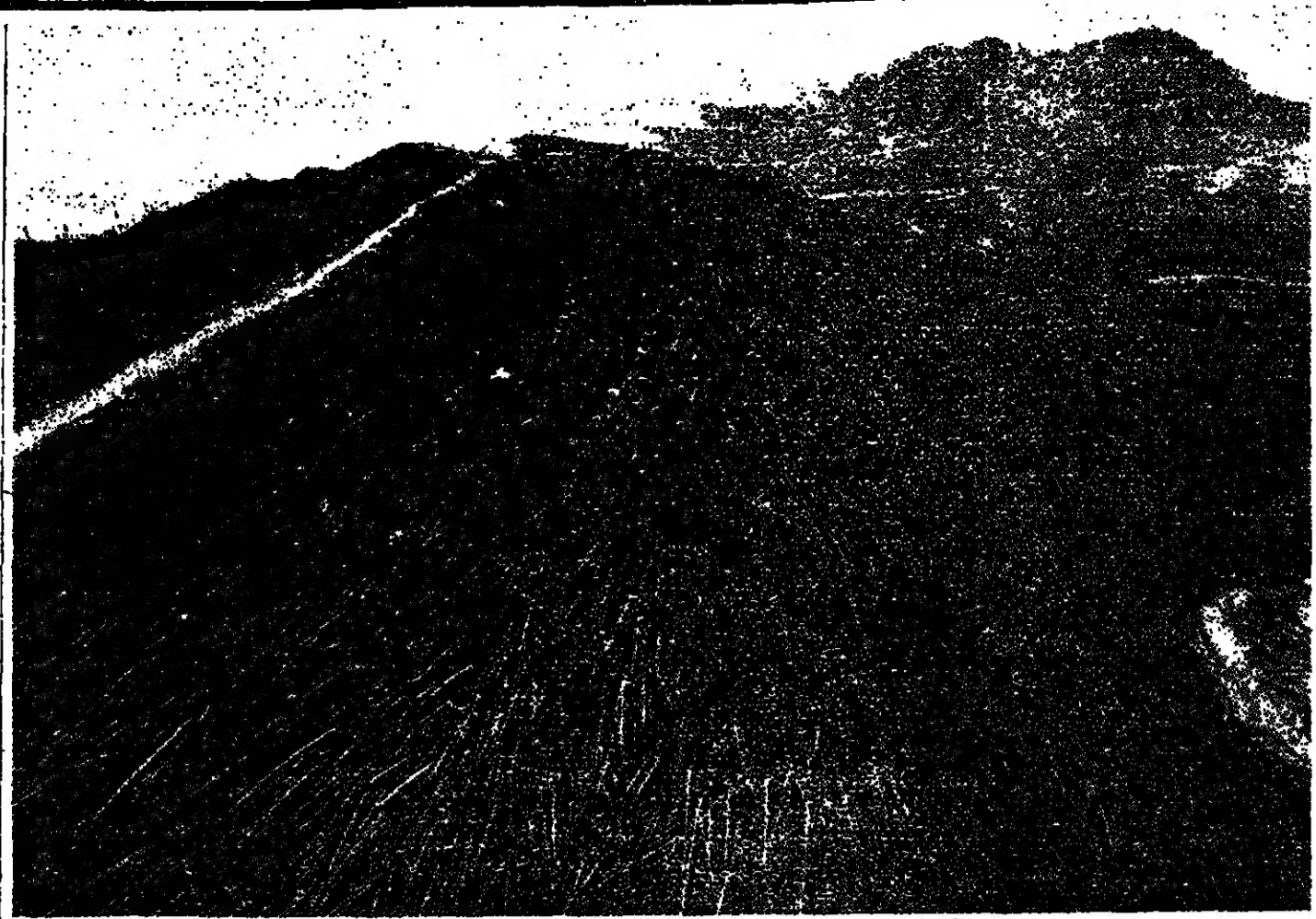
This is a situation which he feels cannot last, especially as the gap between objective truth and the Soviet version becomes daily more apparent to Soviet people through Western broadcasts in Russian. Ninety-five per cent of those Russians interested in politics listen to the BBC or Voice of America, as indeed do the Soviet leaders themselves, Mr Dzhirkvelov says.

More often than not we hear the news from the BBC rather than our own correspondents, and when our people do file we always check what they send against Reuters to see what is really happening."

With the "immense growth" in the influence of the BBC and VOA in recent years, the Soviet authorities have reassessed their propaganda effort. Last year a Central Committee directive in Pravda called for a more "persuasive" approach, and less "grey" attempts at "window-dressing" in the Soviet media.

There was, it said, a "propensity toward verbal babbling and propaganda clichés". A committee was formed under the former director of Tass, Leonid Zamyatin, to live things up.

The machinery remains, however, in Mr Dzhirkvelov's view, cluttered and permeated with "disinformation". There were red faces in both Tass and the KGB, he says, when Mr Robert Mugabe was elected Prime Minister of a democratic Zimbabwe, an event which Moscow would never have predicted. "British imperialists" would never allow.



Volcano devastation: Thousands of trees lie flattened by the force of the volcanic explosion, on the slopes of Mount St Helens, Washington State, which erupted earlier this week.

helicopter through thick clouds and rain to within two miles of the volcano's crater. Helens early yesterday, and that noise like a golf course compared to what is up there.

that three small earthquakes, the largest 3.1 on the Richter scale, shook Mount St Helens early yesterday, and that noise during the night indicated that molten rock was probably moving beneath the surface.—UPI.

Carter visit to four countries

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, May 22

President Carter will visit four European countries at the time of the Venice summit next month. He will not be visiting London or Paris, but arrangements have been made for him to go to Rome and Belgrade.

Details of the rest of the trip have yet to be worked out, but it seems likely that he will also visit Madrid and Lisbon. Governments are being consulted, and arrangements will be announced next week.

The summit, on June 22 and 23, will be attended by President Carter, President Giscard d'Estaing, Mrs Thatcher, Mr Ohira of Japan, Herr Helmut Schmidt and Mr Pierre Trudeau, with the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Cossiga, playing host. His main object will be economic policy, but foreign policy will also be discussed.

Israelis release Arab families, dumped in desert refugee camps

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem, May 22

Less than a week after being confined to what was described as "permanent exile" in an abandoned desert refugee camp without running water, an Arab family returned to their home here today, courtesy of the Israeli military authorities.

Shortly before 1 pm a local blacksmith was summoned to force open the metal front door of the family's spacious house which had been walled shut after Israeli troops removed all the contents last Thursday night. A group of helpers were provided by the Israelis to move furniture back inside the empty building.

Predictably, the sudden reversal of Israeli policy was treated as an excuse for a triumphal display of Palestinian nationalism. Hundreds of local Arabs gathered to sing Palestinian songs and dance in the streets, while a beaming Mr Yaacov Shumali, head of the exiled family told reporters: "This is one of the biggest victories ever gained by the Palestinian people in this area."

teacher of Arabic literature and a former major in the Jordanian Army, was accompanied by his wife and their two daughters, aged 20 and 24. All had been on hunger strike since being dumped in the desolate camp where they had used staves and rocks to fend off wild dogs and scorpions.

At the same time, 12 members of the other Palestinian family banished last week to a crumbling mud hut in a Jericho camp were being returned to their homes in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus. Both families had been stung out for the new form of collective punishment because a male member from each family was suspected of attacking an Israeli vehicle.

Members of the Israeli Cabinet have so far avoided comment on the embarrassing affair, although the decision to revoke the banishment order was taken by Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister.

Officially described as a "humanitarian gesture", the switch was a direct result of strong internal and international criticism about the in-

human conditions to which the exiled Arabs had been subjected. Although it seems certain that the inhumanity of the camps will not be used again, the military Government insists that it intends to continue imposing "internal exile" on Palestinian families whose members are suspected of attacking Israeli vehicles.

A senior military official today strongly denied the suggestion that the decision to allow the 16 Arab men, women and children back to their homes was evidence that the policy of collective punishment was being abandoned. "This was a humanitarian gesture," he said, "the punishment of attacking families from their homes will continue."

Peace problems: Further problems for the troubled Middle East peace process were created today by a decision of a committee of five Israeli Government ministers to sanction the seizure of an unspecified amount of land in the occupied West Bank to provide for some six existing Jewish settlements.

Baseball strike at an American summer

From Michael Leppman, New York, May 22

The sound of an A summer is the three-leaved ball (made in Taiwan). The sight of American summer is of peaked caps and knickerbockers wagging their fingers at red-faced umpires in decision has gone again.

Today it seems certain summer, which trad begins with next Memorial Day holiday, shorn of these cutesome, for a while. Unless there is a curfew minute settlement, professional baseball players will strike tomorrow for the time in the game's history.

With average salary \$150,000 (\$65,000) a year with star players commanding more than \$200,000, Major League players are possibly the paid athletes in the world are striking because it frightened that new players which the team owners must take the contract return them to a cold servitude from which they released not long ago.

Much of the players' prosperity derives from free agent transfer introduced only in 1976 that, players were bound to the clubs who signed them on owners agreed to their fee.

Under the new system six years with a Major League player can opt to a free agent, selling his to the highest bidder. I a result of this that several players have become the pattern.

The trouble was that many team owners dis of the free agent system with rich and successful simply could not restrain themselves from buying all they could get their hands on. The prosperous New York Yankees, the nation's plumpiest in 1977, and dint of lavish expenditure free agent market.

At the other end of the scale, teams like the New York Mets, bottom of the league and unable to attract crowds, who could not compete at the top of the market, have been squeezed out of the league. Talented teams and the crowd, grew wider.

In an effort to halt owners are trying to introduce a new rule which would every team which a free agent to company team he is leaving, by ring one of its own players to the market. The rule would discourage agent market as effect end it.

They point out that excesses in the free market are not their fault; the owners had the seal line not to chase after players who shied off and offer him a salary inducement to join the system would work. They wonder why players should suffer owners' weaknesses.

Before the baseball began last month the walked out of their training camps for a flexing their muscles showdown. They have their main strike because the season has progress for more month, interest is in and crowds building warmer weather comes.

Professional teams roughly five games before crowds which, between 20,000 and 30,000, have been dropping off more than days would, therefore be badly damaging to the—as well as to the among whom the high have the most to lose.

The strike in 1972, with over tensions and heat fits, lasted 13 days. Games cancelled. In where a single heroic victory and defeat, anxious fans are hoping last-minute miracle will leave their season intact.

Not only has New York unsuccessful; the Nations' headquarters Lebanon has made at concessions to Major over the Irish that the most sometimes think the Irish battalion's lions, as in a sense they times do.

When Major Hadden demanded that the Irish from their outposts into Christian enclave, withdrawn. "I do not this was a question of us," General Erskine said. "I just think it is a mor- natic way of ensuring it can fulfil their tasks efficiently."

Then the Irish were bidden to travel by road United Nations headquarters Enn Nagaura and the Nations endorsed Major Enn Nagaura believe it accordance with the latest demand, the Irish shake hands with the man who murdered two soldiers last month.

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EEC stand isolates the British

Britain's EEC partners have decided to isolate her by their decision to impose trade sanctions on Iran with effect from November 3 of last year, the date on which the American hostages in Tehran were seized.

This emerged at a meeting here yesterday of technical and legal experts from the Nine which was called to examine the implications of Britain's surprise decision to renege on the sanctions agreement reached by EEC foreign ministers last weekend in Naples.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher revoked British agreement to the retrospective application of sanctions, because of a revolt by Conservative backbenchers which would have led to the Government being evicted in the House of Commons.

The decision by the other eight member states leaves Britain publicly and diplomatically exposed as the country which talked loudest about supporting the Americans in "their time of trial" over the hostages, but was able to do least when it came to the point.

In practice, however, the retrospective element in the sanctions imposed by the other eight member states is likely to be more apparent than real. Few countries have signed any important trade contracts with Iran between November 4 and now.

Those countries which could be affected are expected—while formally respecting the November 4 date—to turn a blind eye to the completion of trade deals signed between then and today, when the sanctions decision goes into effect.

It is noted, for example, that in West Germany the legislation makes no specific reference to this aspect of the sanctions. It seems that decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis and that partially completed export contracts will be allowed to continue even if signed after November 4.

If sanctions were strictly backdated to November 4, the West German Government could face claims for damages amounting to as much as £2,000m from affected companies, according to sources in Bonn. France and Italy could also be subject to high compensation claims.

59 die in bus crashes

Delhi, May 22.—Fifty-nine people died and 77 were injured in two bus accidents in western India. Police said a bus plunged into a river near Shimoga, in Karnataka state, last night killing 20 people, and 39 passengers died when a bus crashed into a bridge and caught fire near Ratnagiri, south of Bombay yesterday.

Muslim committee formed to seek Afghan solution

From Richard Wigg, Islamabad, May 22

The Islamic foreign ministers' conference has set up a three-man committee to seek a political solution of the Afghan crisis through talks with Moscow and in "other capitals", possibly leading on to the formation of a government under the United Nations.

The committee consists of Dr Habib Chatri, the conference secretary-general, Mr Sadeq Qotbadeh, the Iran Foreign Minister, and Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistan foreign affairs adviser.

Both Mr Qotbadeh and Mr Shahi warned the Soviet Union such contacts could in no way mean recognition of the Russian regime installed in Kabul.

The three-man committee will report back to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in January for the immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan.

A final resolution on Afghanistan hammered out in negotiations, which dragged on all day, included a reiteration of the foreign ministers' demand for the immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops and unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet troops.

Mr Shahi described the conference initiative on Afghanistan as "a major forward step" in the search for a comprehensive political solution, besides the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of

Soviet troops. He reiterated that any solution must show full respect for the Afghan people's choice of government, free from outside interference.

Mr Qotbadeh said of the three-man committee's task: "We are not going to beg the Soviet Union to negotiate. If they want to help to solve the Afghan problem, they can do it. If there is a will to talk on the substance, to resolve the problem, without any tricks then we are ready."

Dr Chatri also insisted that the "useful contacts" the committee would now have did not mean recognition of Kabul.

On the question of the United Nations, Mr Chatri said, the final resolution, agreed unanimously, proved relatively un-dramatic in spite of the fierce condemnation of American policies in the Middle East and the interference or imposition of economic sanctions by any country against Iran.

But the foreign ministers appealed to Iran to continue to work for a solution to the host-guest problem.

The foreign ministers also adopted a resolution calling for an immediate meeting of the United Nations Security Council to examine the "dangerous situation" created by the decision of the Israeli Parliament to annex the old city of Jerusalem.

An extraordinary session of the conference is to be held in Baghdad tomorrow if Israel does not back down.

Waldheim anxiety on Middle East

By David Spenser, Diplomatic Correspondent

The world is not on the brink of a third world war, Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, said yesterday. "Governments and peoples are surely to alert for that, having learnt the terrible lesson of two world wars in this century."

Dr Waldheim was speaking at Keele University where he received an honorary degree. He had no intention of proposing to the Security Council that United Nations forces should be withdrawn from southern Lebanon, he said in reply to reporters' questions, despite "tremendous difficulties" they were facing.

"If we were to do this, I am convinced war would break out again." It might not be confined to Lebanon but spread more widely in the Middle East.

In his talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, earlier in the week, Dr Waldheim said that particular attention was given to European moves to revive the peace process in the Middle East.

"We are facing a very dangerous situation, as we can see the autonomy talks have not succeeded", he said, "and therefore a sort of vacuum has been created". It seemed logical for the European Community countries to make a new move.

Senior US minister about to go

From Frank Vogl, Washington, May 22

The formulation and implementation of American international economic policy may soon suffer another serious blow with the resignation from the Department of State of Mr Richard H. Cooper, Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs.

Harvard University has announced that Mr Cooper has accepted a professorship at the Harvard Center for International Affairs. Officials at the State Department said they had no idea that Mr Cooper planned to leave. Mr Cooper, who joined the Carter Administration in 1977, is currently attending a conference in Paris.

This news comes at a time when the State Department is in some confusion after the resignation recently of Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary, and the appointment of Mr Edmund Muskie; and it also comes at a time when the key international post at the Treasury is vacant.

In January Mr Anthony Solomon, the Under-Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs, announced his resignation to become the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Mr Solomon has not been replaced at the Treasury and informed sources suggest that his post will not be filled this year.

Haddad militia in fresh incursion into UN-held territory

From Robert Fisk, Rashaf, South Lebanon, May 22

The village of Rashaf is in ruins, its houses and villas folded in on themselves in piles of smashed concrete. It takes a case-by-case basis and that partially completed export contracts will be allowed to continue even if signed after November 4.

Except for the occasional patrol of Irish United Nations soldiers the village had until recently been left to the Israelis and the 3ft snakes that are sunning themselves on the hot, broken tarmac of the country lanes.

Not any more, however. The Irish venture no further than a sandbagged emplacement to the north of the ruins and Major Haddad's Christian militia now control the land.

With Israeli assistance they have built a new road through what is meant to be Irish United Nations territory and they have driven a Super Sherman tank on to the top of an adjacent hill and pointed its gun muzzle towards the Irish battalion headquarters town of Tibnine.

A mere traversing of the barrel and the tank can rain shells into Haddad, where the

Dutch have their United Nations battalion headquarters.

The official United Nations maps give no hint of this situation. They show the United Nations front line as a blue cord running at least a mile south of Rashaf, south of the village of Al-Tiri and almost two miles south of the hamlet of Beit Yahoun.

The maps, however, are as lamentable as the incursions into the United Nations' territory in southern Lebanon, for Major Haddad now has his men on the outskirts of Al-Tiri and he has a tank on the northern side of Beit Yahoun, having inexplicably also acquired permission to drive his military vehicles through two Irish United Nations checkpoints.

Ask the United Nations why their maps are so misleading and the official reply is that they are not misleading at all. The blue line marks the southernmost point of United Nations operations, you are told, not the northernmost positions of Major Haddad's militia.

But the lost ground—like the whole southern Lebanese Christian enclave of which the United Nations failed to take control—is palpably not an operational area. It is effectively closed to all United Nations troops.

Of all United Nations soldiers, the Irish themselves are unlikely to venture there. After having had two of their troops murdered, and after the public declaration of a blood feud by the brother of a militiaman killed in an earlier battle with the Irish, the local operations room officers just down the hill from "Camp Shamrock" in Tibnine are the last couple to want to see their men go into the enclave.

Almost every day, the Irish are vilified on Major Haddad's country-and-western radio station.

A recent issue of the Jerusalem Post that has just found its way to Tibnine suggests that the Irish are antisemitic, recording in detail the story of a nineteenth century pogrom against Jews in Limerick.

Just why the Christian militia—and the Israelis—have chosen to direct their anger on to the Irish is something which still puzzles the officers at United Nations headquarters.

Is it because the Irish contingent holds the most valuable

United Nations terrain and Major Haddad feels he can bully them into surrendering parts of it to him? Is it because Major Haddad believed that the Irish—being a Catholic country—would be sympathetic towards his own cause and therefore feels betrayed?

Or is it because the militias genuinely do believe that the Irish favour the guerrillas. The Irish Foreign Minister announced in Bahrain not long ago that his country accepted the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in any future negotiations.

Certainly, General Emmanouel Erskine, the United Nations force commander, seems to believe that there is a political reason behind the feud.

"The difficulty that the Irish have been having with the de facto forces (the Haddad militia) goes back a long time", he says, "and I feel that it may have all sorts of political connotations. I have drawn the attention of our headquarters in New York to this and they are trying to defuse the tension. But so far we have been un-

successful."

Not only has New York unsuccessful; the Nations' headquarters Lebanon has made at concessions to Major over the Irish that the most sometimes think the Irish battalion's lions, as in a sense they times do.

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Baselbabwe Strikes an end to sun for cash

Douglas-Horne

is planning to hold a referendum in order to attract investment to the country's war-torn economy. The Zimbabwe Council has left for two days of talks with industrialists who will attend the referendum. The team will also visit Paris, Frankfurt, and America and

the Zimbabwean left Salisbury and convey to Western fact that the Government would be flexible in the remission of profits of Zimbabwe. He also said that Zimbabwe's stock market was a wider in the country's investment.

plans for the country's economic development. Mr Mugabe's message at the Western summit is to follow the path of peaceful independence. Mr Mugabe's attitude has not changed with cash, not from the offers are derisory.

Mr Mugabe's son on May 9, the day he was using his good friends and their contributions to the 75m aid already given by Mrs Thatcher. He is needed now to invest in the country's economic development.

with the Soviet Union at the bottom of the West may take Mr Mugabe's threats to Mr Mugabe's ability to govern. Mr Mugabe's wage rises and the presence of 40,000 guerrillas under arms.

back on
try beat
Yugoslavia

correspondent

agents of Yugoslav-black Zimbabwe returned to the week. Two groups of 100 arrived on an Boeing 707 and d off to the Morris camp in Salisbury press publicity.

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It supplements another British naval weapon also used by the Hongkong security forces, the 600,000-candlepower flares that are dropped by helicopters above the dark seas and stay alight for nearly five minutes.

The Nitesun, combined with the first time last night by a helicopter to trap a speedboat carrying six illegal immigrants who would otherwise have lost the pursuing Seastar that could travel at only half the rate of the speedboat.

The immigrants managed to scramble ashore on an island but the flares the helicopter dropped guided the security forces.

The Hongkong authorities are seriously concerned over the growing number of legal immigrants from China, whose relatives in Hongkong are applying for visas to allow them to come and live in the colony.

Mr A. J. Carter, the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, has disclosed that during a six-week period last year the Immigration Department issued 100,000 application forms to people who wanted to bring in close relatives from China.

Bigamist tells why divorce is 'impossible'

Pretoria, May 22—A woman with two husbands said today that it was impossible to divorce either because whenever she asked for a divorce, the other husband would threaten to kill her.

Mrs Louisa Theron admitted bigamy, but asked a Pretoria court for a light sentence.

Students' essays show they believe force will be necessary to achieve majority rule Frustration and bitterness among young S African blacks

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, May 22

The Afrikaans newspaper, *Die Vredeland*, asked a class of black students at a school near Pretoria to write short essays on how they viewed the future of South Africa. What has emerged, in extracts published by the newspaper, is a picture of bitterness and frustration which, says *Die Vredeland*, bodes "nothing good for the future".

One student wrote: "If I could be president, I would dance on the Boer's back until he says 'ouch'. I hate whites, even their smell makes me angry and I will not stop until I have what I want—and that is freedom, equality and independence."

The children apparently believe that black majority rule will come to South Africa eventually, but only through force.

South Africa's future is clear," wrote another student. "First the oppressors, racists, fascists, imperialists and colonialists will have to be got rid of and then all that remains will be blacks, the rightful inhabitants of South Africa."

Then Nelson Mandela (the imprisoned black nationalist) will become Premier. He will have a communist Government. But first there will be great bloodshed which has already begun and the oppressed will overthrow the Boer regime and take over everything."

The phraseology of much of the essays suggests that the children are brought up on a diet of revolutionary-style pamphlets.

But *Die Vredeland* points out that the pupils were asked to write in the language of their choice. "Remember, this was in the Afrikaans class and then with a woman teacher who is popular at the school. Yet

for 16 years and his writings have been banned in the country for much longer than that. Most of the children were not born when he was still free. Dr Albert Hertzog, who broke away from the ruling National Party to form the Herstigte Nasionale Party, has not been active on the political scene for some years, but his name is synonymous with white supremacy."

"I do not regard the Mangos, Mphahlele (homeland leaders) and Bothas as my leaders. My leaders are the Mandelas, Sisulus and Morlanas because they are trying to bring justice to this country," another pupil says.

Walter Sisulu is in prison with Nelson Mandela and Dr Nkomo is leader of the Soweto "committee of ten".

"Mr Botha is a man among men because he knows what he is doing, contrary to Mr Vor-

the 39, only two wrote in Afrikaans and the rest in English," the newspaper says.

One pupil wrote: "There are some of the Boer (Afrikaners) who are kind-hearted. My Afrikaans teacher is one of them. She can cooperate with a black child of Africa."

The child's frustration comes through clearly further in the essay. "One of these days South Africa will be in the hands of the blacks and then the whites will start thinking of blacks as people. Hertzog said he would sit on a kaffir's back but things will change. Why can't we just live together and stop the fighting?"

The mention of people such as Mandela and Hertzog reveals the children's awareness of the identities of key figures in the racial issue.

Nelson Mandela, former leader of the African National Congress, has been in prison

America's future lies in Asia, says Tokyo envoy

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, May 22

The United States' bilateral relations with Japan are more important than Washington's relations with any European ally, Mr Mike Mansfield, the American Ambassador in Tokyo, said today.

Taking many European diplomats in Tokyo by surprise, the influential American envoy said the United States should shift its priorities because its important and fundamental interests lie with Japan and the Pacific and not with Europe and the Atlantic.

The ambassador's controversial statement was made three weeks after he returned to Tokyo from a meeting with President Carter in Washington.

Mr Mansfield, a former Senate majority leader and a close confidant of President Carter, also claimed that the United States should strengthen its military presence in East Asia "because I think the most strategic area of the world is in the Pacific, not in Western Europe."

Addressing a press conference today, the outspoken envoy went on to declare in emphatic terms that his country's future lay with East Asia. "I think the most important, repeat most important, bilateral relationship we have in the world is with Japan. This is where everything is happening. As far as my country is concerned it is where the future lies," he said.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of Japan and the Pacific area, Mr Mansfield pointed out that one had only to look at the map to realize why America should bring its strength in the area on parity with its forces in Europe.

"If you look at the map you see the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United States and Japan right close to one another, and right in the middle is Korea."

It is out here where American business has its opportunities. This is where the biggest returns are.

"I think events in Afghanistan and Iran are bringing that home to us and it is time we shifted our priorities and recognized where our important primary interests lie."

In the past Japan had tended to shy away from what the world saw as the political and diplomatic responsibilities as an economic power. But recent trends showed that Japan was taking a more responsible role for the security of the area, Mr Mansfield said.

He was confident that the relationship between Japan and the United States would remain intact whether or not the ruling conservative Government lost power at the general elections next month in Japan.

Brazil union leaders freed to ease crisis

From Patrick Knight
Sao Paulo, May 22

With a political crisis deepening, the Brazilian Government has acted to reduce the pressure at one point by suddenly releasing the detained metal workers' leader, Senhor Luis Inacio da Silva (Lula) and 12 other union leaders.

A statement from the political police said Lula was no longer a threat to public order in the vehicle-making suburb of Sao Bernardo, but they threatened to arrest him again if incitement recurred.

The Government is under pressure on several fronts. Its main concern is to avoid holding local elections, scheduled for November. The government party would almost certainly lose control of many areas.

With the ending of the system of having just two parties in Congress, the Government can no longer rely on the party which previously gave it unconditional support, now the Social Democratic Party (PDS), to save it.

The Popular Party (PP) formed mainly of government rebels, was expected to support the Government on issues of importance, and probably would have done so. But political

mishandling has alienated its leadership and the PP would not now back the Government in a vote to postpone the elections.

In a surprise court decision, Senhor Leonel Brizola, the former governor of Rio Grande do Sul state, has lost his fight to be able to use the vote-winning PTB insignia, the initials of the "Brazilian Labour Party".

The main result of this episode is that Senhor Brizola, who had previously intimidated the Government that he would not be among its most ferocious critics, has now gone on to the attack. He has now been deserted by six members of his small party, most of whom are to join Lula's fast-growing Labour Party, with which the government will not be able to reach any agreement.

Senhor Brizola himself may now seek agreement with Lula, who earlier repulsed an approach by a man seen as a tacit ally of the establishment. It now seems that the Government will either have to decree that local government office holders remain in their posts for a further two years, or simply suspend elected officers altogether, and rely on the bureaucracy to carry on.

White elephant fit for a king

Bangkok, May 22—A white elephant has been born in Thailand's southern Petchaburi province in what is considered a good omen for the reign of King Bhumibol.

The white elephant, the fourth to be found during the present reign, is to be examined by experts before being presented to the king.

Ships collide in fog off Japan

Hakodate, May 22—The 10,242-ton Liberian cargo-ship Zenlin Glory sank today after a collision with a West German ship in fog in Tsugaru Strait, off this northern Japanese city, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

All 28 crew members were taken off by a Japanese patrol boat after the collision.

Anti-government rioters ride in captured military vehicles through the South Korean city of Kwangju yesterday.

Hongkong uses superlights against illegal entrants

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong, May 22

British security patrols have turned to dazzling illegal immigrants trying to enter Hongkong in hired speedboats with 65 million-candlepower superlights known as Nitesun.

The light, mounted on the Royal Navy Seastar boats and helicopters, virtually blinds those who it confronts and could cause permanent eye damage to anyone who tried to outpace it for more than a few minutes.

The Nitesun has a 360° movement and an 18in beam that can be widened or narrowed. It is powered by a rare gas known as xenon, which is used experimentally in arc lamps at light-houses.

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The Hongkong authorities are seriously concerned over the growing number of legal immigrants from China, whose relatives in Hongkong are applying for visas to allow them to come and live in the colony.

Mr A. J. Carter, the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, has disclosed that during a six-week period last year the Immigration Department issued 100,000 application forms to people who wanted to bring in close relatives from China.

Ex-premier 'avoided law'

Colombo, May 22—Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, revised the value of her properties, nationalized under a law passed by her own Government in 1972, so as to claim higher compensation, a presidential commission has been told.

The revaluation was said to have been carried out, after the Land Reform law was passed, to defeat the purpose of the law.

Three senior judges are investigating alleged abuses during Mrs Bandaranaike's rule from May 1970 to July 1977.

Charges include avoidance of the land reform law, making a false tax declaration and wrongfully prolonging her Government's emergency powers.

The commission has no punitive powers, but if it finds Mrs Bandaranaike guilty, it can recommend Parliament to prevent her holding public office for up to seven years.—Reuters.

roccan drive to clear Polisario hideouts

Western Sahara and met no resistance.

The second of these, "Zelika", led the first Moroccan attempt to clean up the Quarkiz region early in March.

Undertaken in cooperation with several units from the "Ouhoud" brigade and troops from the garrison in Zag, the operation began well. Things went wrong however, when a number of Moroccan units chasing fleeing Polisario forces fell into ambushes.

The Polisario nationalists said that they had put 1,357 Moroccan soldiers out of action. King Hassan put Moroccan losses at 82. This operation resumed at dawn on May 6, with an extra 10,000 Moroccan troops taking part.

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Tomorrow, you could be asked about the Job Release Scheme.

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You've probably seen the new Job Release Scheme advertisements, aimed at people who are approaching retirement. Whatever their reasons for applying for Job Release, you can be sure they've thought long and hard about it, but they need your agreement to go ahead.

This would enable the men and women who join the Scheme to stop work a year before they would normally retire, on the understanding that you take on replacements from the unemployed register—though not necessarily for the same jobs.

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Special provision has been made for disabled men (you've probably seen these advertisements too) and with your agreement to take on someone from the unemployed register (a disabled person, wherever possible), they would be able to stop work up to five years before they would normally retire.

So think of the opportunities to make promotions and bring in new blood; apart from making some people very happy.

Make sure you have all the facts about Job Release; ring Eileen Tingey on 01-213 5538, 01-213 6857, or write to her at PO Box 702, London SW20 8SZ.

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A remarkable plan enables you to have a new private flat in your own home, at no out of pocket expense, pay no rates, almost no maintenance, and make an outstanding contribution to a national problem through Help the Aged.

The owner of the house above, in Chester, solved these problems in a way that helped herself, and other people. It could make sense for you.

Her need for space diminished, but costs have steadily increased. So the house shown is being altered (not at her expense) to provide her with a self-contained flat, free from future heavy expenses.

How is this possible?

The National Charity, Help the Aged, could convert one portion of the house into a modernized, and usually self-contained flat for your use for the rest of your life, or that of your spouse. By making your house over to the charity, you could also be relieved of the burden of rates, rent, and external repairs; and the portion of the house that you no longer need, converted for the use of retired people.

Send for full details, entirely without obligation. Please write to: Help the Aged, Room T3C, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

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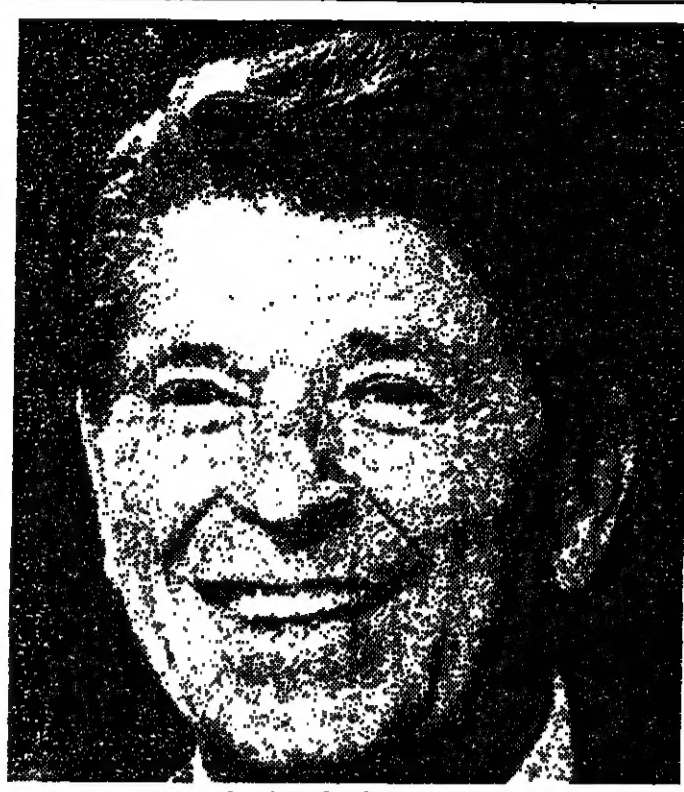
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FOREIGN REPORT

Controversy over Mr Reagan's California years

The second of two articles in which our Washington Correspondent looks at the policies of Ronald Reagan



Ronald Reagan: "Cutting the fat" off the federal budget.

The lessons of Mr Ronald Reagan's eight years as Governor of California are a matter of some controversy. When another ex-governor, Mr Jimmy Carter of Georgia, was running for the presidency, he, too, made some rather exaggerated claims for his past successes. Politicians should not be blamed if they overstate their achievements, but some of Mr Reagan's boasts do not stand up at all well to close examination.

He takes great pride in having returned \$5,700m (£2,500m) in tax revenues. He glosses over the fact that these were the profits of huge tax increases that he himself had introduced. Income tax, for instance, went up from 7 per cent to 11 per cent.

He says: "In California, the size of government had grown by 75 per cent in eight years before Mr Reagan took office. During the eight years of our administration, there was virtually no growth at all, despite the fact that our population was increasing faster than any other state in the union."

In Governor Pat Brown's eight years, the state budget grew by 130 per cent. In Mr Reagan's, it grew by 122 per cent. Under Mr Reagan, when he says "We stopped the bureaucracy cold," the number of state employees increased by 21 per cent.

Mr Reagan signed a Bill greatly liberalising California's abortion laws (Now he wants a constitutional amendment prohibiting all abortions). He says: "I was elected Governor by a million votes and re-elected by nearly as many. In 1966, his majority was 992,339 and in 1970 it was 501,057."

He is remembered with some affection and approval, even by people who opposed him. He chose competent people, usually businessmen, to run the departments of the administration, and left them alone. He uttered terrible threats against the universities, but in fact quickly came to an understanding with them.

He could even argue that he erred on the right side in taking California too heavily in the early days, to redress the state's finances. It allowed him to cut taxes at the end of his time, and enabled him to bequeath a huge surplus to his successor and permit Proposition 13, which cut property taxes, to go through.

He will not so argue, however. He is wedded to the idea that the panacea for inflation, the federal deficit, and declining productivity is a huge tax cut.

He justifies it all by saying that a tax cut would stimulate the economy that government revenue would rise, not fall. He wants to cut taxes by 30 per cent over three years.

"What the President should be proposing," Mr Reagan says, "is what John F. Kennedy proposed in 1963 and put into effect, and that is a 30 per cent cut in the income tax. Congress only gave him 27 per cent average across the board but even so, the federal Government itself ended up getting \$34,000m more in revenue than it had been getting at the higher rates."

President Kennedy's tax cut, which was enacted under Lyndon Johnson, provided for a reduction of 15.4 per cent in individual taxes and 7.7 per cent in corporate taxes. Mr Reagan is inconsistent just when the figures together to put his "average." Federal receipts went up by about \$10,000m (not \$34,000m).

It is hard to put a figure on the amount he wants to cut in taxes, because he also recommends large cuts in taxes on business, the abolition of the windfall tax on oil profits, and a much more generous schedule

for depreciation of industrial plant. The total cut in taxes would be well over \$100,000m (£43,000m) (20 per cent). He does not appear to have any clear answer to suggestions that adding so much money to the economy would stimulate inflation.

Instead, he talks about "cutting the fat" off the federal budget. President Carter, and his two predecessors, Presidents Ford and Nixon, and all his best to "cut the fat off the budget, and Congress has been vigorously going away at it and has even managed to balance the 1981 budget."

Since Mr Reagan also wants to increase the defence budget substantially (though he does not say by how much), the only way to balance the budget would be wholesale cuts in social spending. At the least, this would probably mean ending "indexing" social security and other welfare, medical and pension payments.

At the moment, all these cuts go up in tune with inflation. There is even an argument that they run up rather faster than the real inflation rate (because the Government uses an index that takes account of the rising cost of housing, which is not relevant to pensions and medical costs). Mr Reagan, however, denies that he will end indexing. Even more, he claims that the social security budget is "trillions of dollars" underfunded.

He says that when today's children reach retirement age, they may find the social security cupboard bare. If he is against cutting benefits then, presumably, he must support substantial increases in social security taxes. To the increasing confusion of those who are searching for a coherent economic policy, it turns out that he does not.

This leaves him with one last possibility. He claims that the Attorney General has said that \$50,000m of the federal budget is wasted or goes to waste. The money is stolen or is given to people, particularly those on welfare, who do not need or deserve it.

In fact, the figure, which is not much more than a guess, is between \$2,000m and \$25,000m—nothing like Mr Reagan's \$50,000m.

Mr Reagan's way with figures leaves much to be desired. He says: "General Motors has to employ 25,000 full-time employees just to fill out government paperwork and comply with government regulations." The company, in fact, employs 5,000 out of more than half a million, and they work mostly on taxes.

He said: "It costs the Department of Health, Education and Welfare \$1 to a needy person in this country." In fact, the cost is 12 cents.

He claims that the Government has hired an extra 131,000 employees since President Carter took office. The correct figure is 60,000.

He says: "As much as 80 per cent or 90 per cent of the western states are owned by the federal Government. Alaska, for instance, if you count the part of Alaska that actually is under state control, it's smaller than Rhode Island."

The Government owns about half a million square miles of Alaska, which leaves about 30,000 square miles for the state authorities and private people, an area 65 times the size of Rhode Island. The Government owns 67 per cent of the state's land, and less of every other western state.

Mr Reagan's most striking economic fallacy concerns energy policy. Despite strenuous efforts by a variety of experts, he still refuses to believe in the energy crisis.

"The Department of Energy has come before us to tell us that somehow it's our fault," he says. "Be miserable at home, turn the thermostat down

when it's cold, don't drive your car as all, or drive it slowly."

"All these things are conservative, as though that were the answer to the energy problem. We live in an energy-rich nation. One hundred and twenty years ago we drilled the first oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania."

"In all those years, for a century or more, we had more gasoline, oil, and more kerosene and heating oil than any other nation on earth at a lower price than any other nation. And only in the last few years have we found increasing scarcity and skyrocketing prices. And that's because the President would have us believe we're energy poor."

"There is more oil in this country yet to be found than we have so far used. All we have to do to solve the energy crisis is for government to get out of the energy industry and turn it loose in the market place."

One of his favourite aphorisms is: "For many years, we have been told that there are simple answers. Well, the truth is that there are simple answers, just not easy answers."

The idea of turning the oil industry loose is certainly a simple one. The idea that there is more oil under the seas and the wastes of Alaska than has yet been extracted is rejected by the United States Geological Survey and the American Petroleum Institute (API).

The Survey estimates that about 106,000 barrels of oil have been recovered in the United States on off shore shores, since 1859. The API, American reserves at 27,800m barrels, to which it adds 3,900m barrels that might be found with improved technology.

It is not an overstatement to find it utterly impossible to make a useful guess of what might be found in the Arctic or off the Atlantic coast. Less cautious people are more likely to put these national reserves at anything from 20,000m barrels to 100,000m barrels. At the most, if all pricing considerations are ignored, 60 per cent of the oil could be recovered. Taking the highest estimate, therefore (a most dangerous assumption), the United States therefore has about 90,000m barrels of oil (API's 30,000m and 60,000m from undiscovered reserves).

This is some way short of the amount already recovered. American oil consumption last year was 6,344m barrels. At that rate, America's maximum possible reserves would last for 13 years.

That is why America imports 43 per cent of its oil, at a cost of \$30,000m (£40,000m) a year. That is why Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter have tried to produce an energy policy. That is why there is an energy crisis.

It is more than a little disconcerting to find the man who might very well be the next President persist in making these statements, however often the figures are explained to him.

His audiences love it, however. He was born in 1911, in small-town America, in the heart of the mid-West, and was a child in a time of golden certainty. It all collapsed in the Depression. Mr Reagan was in his 20s, America pulled itself out of that horrifying experience, and went on to fight and win the Second World War.

Mr Reagan learned that with hard work and sensible government everything was possible for America (though his definition of sensible government has changed since he was a New Deal Democrat).

He believes that the 1980s can be a replay of the 1930s or better still, the Truman years when America was overwhelmingly rich and universally respected. He believes that his appeal, and his success will be a measure of American nostalgia.

Patrick Brogan

In re Rossmaster Ltd and others and R. C. Tucker

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Brightman and Sir Patrick Browne

Mr Roy Clifford Tucker, chartered accountant and tax consultant, was fined £1,000 for contempt of court for failing to comply with an undertaking given by his counsel to the Court of Appeal last August to deliver up documents seized by tax investigators in a raid on premises of the Rossmaster group. The documents were returned to him pending an appeal to the House of Lords.

On December 13, 1979, the House of Lords, in the appeal (The Times, December 14, 1979) 2 WLR 1, and held that the documents had been validly seized by the Revenue and returned to him pending an appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Brian Davenport, QC, for the Revenue, said that the documents were returned to Mr Tucker and his staff that the documents were to be retained. In December, 1979, Miss Binks had replaced Mr Tucker as the Revenue's secretary. In February, 1980, Miss Binks had said that to the best of her recollection she had not thrown away the diaries, but that she might have discarded one.

In an affidavit she said that she had had every intention of throwing the diaries away and only keeping the 1978 one. Later she said that she threw the diaries away and only kept the 1978 one. She recalled seeing the books thrown away with the rubbish. She remarked that there had been a lot of papers and that she had completely forgotten having been told not to disturb the diaries.

Mr Tucker ought to have sworn an affidavit to the court explaining the position and apologizing to the court instead of leaving it to the Revenue to find out what instructions he had given to his staff. The court said that the documents were kept in safe place and that his staff clearly intended they might be wanted for redelivery to the Revenue. There had been no affidavit.

House of Lords

Lorrho: no discovery of documents

Lorrho Ltd and Others v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd and Others

The House of Lords criticized the decision of the Court of Appeal to grant an order for discovery of documents, "an essentially interlocutory matter."

Lord Diplock suggested that it was inappropriate to give leave to appeal against a discovery order. He said that the order was made by the Court of Appeal in a summary way, and that the House of Lords should not interfere with it.

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should determine in the appeal whether the documents were lawfully seized pursuant to valid warrants, or whether they would be returned to the Revenue upon demand.

The Revenue had duly returned the documents. It was plainly the duty of those to whom they were returned to hold and return them to the Revenue if the Court of Appeal's decision was reversed.

The House did reverse the decision. Many documents were returned to Mr Tucker and his staff. But Mr Tucker could have given evidence. Cross-examination could well have been allowed.

By his counsel Mr Tucker said that he had explained everything to the Revenue and had said that he had stressed that the diaries were not to be thrown away. If he had told Miss Binks in proper terms about the diaries one could not help wondering why at first she did not remember. The explanation given by Mr Tucker was not satisfactory.

It was submitted that there was no contempt unless it was contumacious and if what had occurred had been accidental. An absolute undertaking had been given to redeliver the documents on demand.

If something had happened, like a fire or theft—which made redelivery impossible, that would go a long way in mitigation. Even though a breach of undertaking was not contumacious, it was a breach of a solemn undertaking. The diaries had not been redelivered but put in the dustbin. The court was satisfied that Mr Tucker should be fined £1,000 for contempt of the court.

Lord Justice Brightman and Sir Patrick Browne agreed. Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Rooney.

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David or explanation from Mr Tucker. His Lordship could not help wondering whether he thought that he could not risk being cross-examined.

In Comet Products U.K. Ltd v Hawker Plastics Ltd (1979) 2 QB 57 the court had said that contempt of court was analogous to a criminal offence and a person charged with contempt could not be compelled to give evidence.

But Mr Tucker could have given evidence. Cross-examination could well have been allowed. By his counsel Mr Tucker said that he had explained everything to the Revenue and had said that he had stressed that the diaries were not to be thrown away. If he had told Miss Binks in proper terms about the diaries one could not help wondering why at first she did not remember. The explanation given by Mr Tucker was not satisfactory.

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"THE SHOW LOVE" PAPER
BRIAN KENTONMENT 01-746 111
THURSDAY 8.00, SAT. 8.00
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SPORT

Tennis

Miss Wade uses up her capital to German profit

From Rex Bellamy
Berlin, May 22

Britain were beaten by West Germany in the women's world tennis championship for the Federation Cup here today. Bettina Bunge, who is only 16 years old, was so resilient and sound that she reduced Susan Barker to frustration, dejection, and a 2-6-0 defeat that took only 33 minutes. But it took Sylvia Hanika two hours to win 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 against Virginia Wade. More than 14 years her senior. That third set was tremendously exciting.

Miss Wade was a break up at 4-1, came within a point of losing 5-2 on her own service, and had five break points for 5-3, and at 5-4 had a match point which Miss Hanika saved with a backhand volley. So Miss Wade certainly had her chances. In her long career she has, perhaps, given too much emotional and physical energy battling through such crises as these. If the memory is reliable, it was Lord Moran who once said that a man's courage was his capital—and he was always spending. In terms of competitive sport that is equally true of tennis players and, for that matter, sportsmen and women of all kinds.

Since this event first attracted heavy sponsorship—and, consequently, the active interest of all the leading players instead of merely some of them—the United States have beaten Australia in four consecutive finals. With Tracy Austin and Christine Evert in action (the clay courts that bring out the best in them) that should happen again this week. Australia had a nasty cold today when Diana Frohnholtz, who has been taking penicillin for influenza-type throat trouble, played a listless match and was beaten 5-7, 6-3 by Sandra Lindberg of Sweden, who is only 18. Thanks to Wendy Turnbull and a doubles success Australia won anyway, but Miss Wade's performance was her finest and best. In the semi-final round the pairings will be the United States or the Soviet Union v East Germany and the United States or the Soviet Union v East Germany. Tomorrow, in the context of Afghanistan and the Olympics it will be an unusually interesting clash. Not that the Soviet Union has much of a chance. They have already been taken to a deciding doubles by Korea and Italy in turn and today came with its spirit points of leading them. But the political background is

Tulasne makes another stand before going out

Rome, May 22.—Thierry Tulasne, the 16-year-old French junior, yesterday defeated holder Vitas Gerulaitis, winner of the Italian tennis championships today after cruising through the first set of his third round match against Tomas Smid.

The younger Frenchman, who is ranked 334th in the world, tied and was beaten 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 by his 24-year-old opponent from Czechoslovakia.

At two quarters in the second set everything started to go wrong for Tulasne. Smid, a Davis Cup veteran who is ranked 1st in the world, took control. After playing well in the first set, and taking all my chances I began to feel tired, Tulasne said. The third set was even more difficult. Gerulaitis is stronger than Gerulaitis and he was playing well. I'm disappointed naturally but even more tired.

Drysdale's Davis Cup hopes dashed by broken finger

Robin Drysdale, the British international, who was in contention for a place in the Davis Cup team which meets Romania in Bristol next month, had his hopes dashed yesterday when an X-ray revealed a broken middle finger on his right hand.

Drysdale, the 29-year-old national number six, should have contested a national final round tie with Dave Schneider of South Africa, in the Perth Masters tournament at Bournemouth. But because of the specialist's report he was forced to retreat, leaving Schneider to meet John Feaver, another candidate to reach the international side, in today's semi final round.

Drysdale will be out of action for at least three weeks. "But that is only a minimum and it could mean a place to miss Wimbledon," said the disappointed Essex player. Paul Hitchens, the British manager, who had been watching Drysdale and other possibilities for his side, said: "This is a very, very bad luck. He was running into form both in singles and doubles and I honestly felt Robin was capable of

Yachting
Record entry for Tomatin Trophy series

By a Special Correspondent

The excellence of the racing in Scottish waters for the top classes of yachting was reflected in a record 151 entries for the Clyde Cruising Club's Tomatin Trophy series, named after the sponsor who donates five million to the highest distillery in Scotland.

The pipe-piper for the week's racing was the start from Inverclyde yesterday of 14 mini-tonners racing not only in their Scottish championship but for selection for the world championship of the mini-ton class to be sailed on the Forth in August.

Last night the rest of the fleet sailed from Glasgow and Bangor in Northern Ireland in races to Campbeltown. From there they will be given middle-distance events to the fishing village of Lorn in Lorn. The Tomatin series continues round Olympic courses for three days.

Silver Apple of the Moon, from Cork, and Vanquero, from Ulster, will race against the champions as Ian Fyfe, of Fort William, and the Peterson 43 Bubblegum in TOR Division A. Division B will see the winner of the Tomatin trophy, the Shamrock half-tonner Jonathan Livingston Vulture of J. W. B. Anderson.

Golf

Student gives a lesson in putting

Diane Park, a university student, gave the performance of a star pupil in the English women's tour golf championship at Aldeburgh yesterday. Her putting performance was worthy of a diploma as she sank putts from all angles to knock out a Curtis Cup team member, Lynda Moore and the Staffordshire title holder, Ann Booth, to reach the quarter-final round.

The 20-year-old from Cheltenham, who is studying engineering at Bath University, now seems certain to be included in the England side being selected this weekend for the European junior championships.

Miss Park, whose next opponent, Beverly New, is also a likely candidate, was a reserve for the senior England side last year.

Miss Park holed putts of 20 feet for a birdie and an eagle at the second and third respectively and was five up after reaching the turn in one under par. The former Gloucestershire club champion suffered a hiccup at two on the way home, but finished the match with another long putt at the 15th.

Her only previous appearance in the championship was in 1977 when she gained the notable scalp of another Curtis Cup international, Julia Greenhalgh. That year

Cricket

Willis moves advantage the way of Warwick

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

WORCESTER: Worcestershire, with eight wickets in hand, need 173 to beat Warwickshire. What was meant to be a warm and sunny day at Worcester yesterday turned out, instead, to be cold and damp, and dark enough for bad light to claim two of the half hour's play.

The match, therefore, between Worcestershire and Warwickshire, to decide which of them goes into the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup, will have to be continued tomorrow. In reply to Warwickshire's first innings, Worcestershire bowled 21 overs, are 55 for two.

So what advantage there is lies with Warwickshire. Worcestershire have lost the profit Turner, who was caught at the wicket. This was a fine ball that "took off" from not much short of a length; a little bit of the need to over yet, but Worcestershire seldom will when Turner makes a point.

The cathedral clock was still chiming eleven when Ames hit the first two fours of the day, through the front of the net, through three o'clock, though, not 24 overs had been bowled, not as much because it had been wet as dark. Warwickshire bowled 25 for two, Ames and Lloyd having both been leg before. The odds are shortening, I think, on Ames getting back to the wicket, on Woolmer doing so.

For leading them out, Warwickshire were indebted to Smith and Claughton who added 97 for the third wicket. Smith, who had a good start, was caught at the wicket. He would have come down a long way to stop a fast Yorker; but yesterday he made some powerful drives and lofted pulls.

Claughton, an Oxford bowler for the last four years, is making a niche for himself as a batsman. He is a left-handed batsman, a right-handed batsman, a left-handed batsman, a right-handed batsman. He is a left-handed batsman, a right-handed batsman, a left-handed batsman, a right-handed batsman.

Alleyne is an enthusiastic, spring-like, unpretentious, huddler. He was Worcestershire's liveliest fielder but they are not an especially lively fielding side. Yesterday, however, they were not an especially lively fielding side. Yesterday, however, they were not an especially lively fielding side.

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West Indians suffer first defeat of tour

CHELMSFORD: Essex beat the West Indies by five wickets.

The West Indians suffered the first defeat of their tour when they were down in a 50-over match here today. The tourists were bowled out for 149 in 45.2 overs to pave the way for a match-winning partnership, involving the former England captain, Denness, and the Essex captain, Fletcher.

They put on 98 in only 19 overs with Denness having spent 22 overs compiling his first 100 runs, going on to hit 63 before being bowled by Marshall. Fletcher made 48 before being dismissed by Holding. But it was the medium pace bowler, Pont, who collected the most of the match awards. He was brought on for the eighth over with the total on 20, after the West Indians had been asked to bat and trapped Greenidge leg before with his second delivery.

He bowled Richards with his fifth. Kalicharran was unperturbed by the early disasters, and soon entered the field with a couple of five drives off Pont. With the total on 60, in the 18th over, Pont struck Smith in the chest. The match was over, with the West Indians bowled out for 149 in 45.2 overs.

The tourists' last hopes of a formidable total disappeared in the first over after lunch with the departure of Lloyd. He had failed to add to his initial score when he was caught behind by Smith while driving at Goodrich.

Pont added with four for 36 from 11 overs and Lever, with two for 10 and East (two for 24) gave him admirable support.

WEST INDIANS
D. G. Greenidge, c Pont, b Marshall 12
L. E. Lloyd, c Marshall, b Pont 10
V. K. Kalicharran, c Marshall, b Pont 10
S. A. Richards, c Marshall, b Pont 10
D. A. Ganga, c Marshall, b Pont 10
B. A. Haynes, c Marshall, b Pont 10
Total 149 (45.2 overs)

ESSEX
D. A. Ganga, c Marshall, b Pont 12
L. E. Lloyd, c Marshall, b Pont 10
V. K. Kalicharran, c Marshall, b Pont 10
S. A. Richards, c Marshall, b Pont 10
D. A. Ganga, c Marshall, b Pont 10
B. A. Haynes, c Marshall, b Pont 10
Total 149 (45.2 overs)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-30, 3-40, 4-50, 5-60, 6-70, 7-80, 8-90, 9-100, 10-110, 11-120, 12-130, 13-140, 14-150, 15-160, 16-170, 17-180, 18-190, 19-200, 20-210, 21-220, 22-230, 23-240, 24-250, 25-260, 26-270, 27-280, 28-290, 29-300, 30-310, 31-320, 32-330, 33-340, 34-350, 35-360, 36-370, 37-380, 38-390, 39-400, 40-410, 41-420, 42-430, 43-440, 44-450, 45-460, 46-470, 47-480, 48-490, 49-500, 50-510, 51-520, 52-530, 53-540, 54-550, 55-560, 56-570, 57-580, 58-590, 59-600, 60-610, 61-620, 62-630, 63-640, 64-650, 65-660, 66-670, 67-680, 68-690, 69-700, 70-710, 71-720, 72-730, 73-740, 74-750, 75-760, 76-770, 77-780, 78-790, 79-800, 80-810, 81-820, 82-830, 83-840, 84-850, 85-860, 86-870, 87-880, 88-890, 89-900, 90-910, 91-920, 92-930, 93-940, 94-950, 95-960, 96-970, 97-980, 98-990, 99-1000, 100-1010, 101-1020, 102-1030, 103-1040, 104-1050, 105-1060, 106-1070, 107-1080, 108-1090, 109-1100, 110-1110, 111-1120, 112-1130, 113-1140, 114-1150, 115-1160, 116-1170, 117-1180, 118-1190, 119-1200, 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720-7210, 721-7220, 722-7230, 723-7240, 724-7250, 725-7260, 726-7270, 727-7280, 728-7290, 729-7300, 730-7310, 731-7320, 732-7330, 733-7340, 734-7350, 735-7360, 736-7370, 737-7380, 738-7390, 739-7400, 740-7410, 741-7420, 742-7430, 743-7440, 744-7450, 745-7460, 746-7470, 747-7480, 748-7490, 749-7500, 750-7510, 751-7520, 752-7530, 753-7540, 754-7550, 755-7560, 756-7570, 757-7580, 758-7590, 759-7600, 760-7610, 761-7620, 762-7630, 763-7640, 764-7650, 765-7660, 766-7670, 767-7680, 768-7690, 769-7700, 770-7710, 771-7720, 772-7730, 773-7740, 774-7750, 775-7760, 776-7770, 777-7780, 778-7790, 779-7800, 780-7810, 781-7820, 782-7830, 783-7840, 784-7850, 785-7860, 786-7870, 787-7880, 788-7890, 789-7900, 790-7910, 791-7920, 792-7930, 793-7940, 794-7950, 795-7960, 796-7970, 797-7980, 798-7990, 799-8000, 800-8010, 801-8020, 802-8030, 803-8040, 804-8050, 805-8060, 806-8070, 807-8080, 808-8090, 809-8100, 8

Promises of reform have come to nothing, and the power of the princes is causing concern

Can a new royal strong man stop the slide in Saudi Arabia?

Six months after the Mecca fighting and as Saudi Arabia is about to launch its Third Five-Year Plan the major topic of conversation in the Kingdom is still the film *Death of a Prince*. It is a symptom of the malaise afflicting Saudi Arabia that the Royal scandal takes precedence over the challenges of preserving the country.

Faced with what it feels is a direct danger of Soviet domination abroad and growing disillusionment at home, it seems that the Kingdom is suffering a crisis of morale. Promises of reform to satisfy the modest grievances of those frustrated at their lack of say in government have come to nothing. There is little public confidence left in the government's will.

Officials privately expressed surprise at the end of last month for an American statement of faith in the government, when not so long ago one might have expected an announcement that the stability of the Kingdom should ever have been doubted. The statement followed in the front-page story in the *New York Times* drawing attention to the profits that Prince Muhammad bin Fahd, a son of the Crown Prince, had made from business dealings.

Whatever the truth of that accusation, it is clear that widespread corruption has come to be a danger to the loyalty commanded by the Royal family. Everyone expects a prince to do well out of his position but some Saudis are beginning to resent the sums they hear about on a well-developed grapevine. Crown Prince Fahd promised a purge of corruption after Mecca, but at least one recent payment in a second-generation prince of a substantial premium above the price the Kingdom receives.

Although the Saudi government draws much of its strength from the spread of this family throughout the country and its blood relations with the leading tribes, administration is highly centralized. Even relatively minor decisions are made by a tight group of royal princes. That was a virtue in the days when Kings of Arabia and Faisal were imposing order on the country but, in these days



Women in purdah in Riyadh, and Crown Prince Fahd, the country's effective ruler.

of weak rule, blame for what many feel is the Kingdom's drifting focuses at the centre. Everyone is aware of the problems, and the government is not seen to be doing anything about them.

There is a concomitant demand for more public participation, with hopes pinned on the promised but postponed establishment of a Majlis, or consultative council. It is far from being a movement for change, but is the result of a restlessness produced by the frustration of sensing the country is going nowhere.

It could be said that Saudi Arabia is only now beginning to feel the consequences of her development. In physical terms alone, the five years of the Second Plan were a success: the fundamental infrastructure

of productivity has been laid, enormous strides have been taken in health and education and wealth has been effectively spread to a good proportion of the people. A severe monetary policy has dampened to below 10 per cent the inflation that arose from the excesses of the first years of the plan.

The heavy days of release from their traditional poverty are over, however, and it is just beginning to sink in to the Saudi people that they must now consider the kind of society that is to be built, how they can adapt their traditions to the new surroundings. It is significant that the most popular of the generally disregarded religious texts shown on television is chaired by Sheikh Tantawi, a divine almost Johnsonian in his forthright dispersing of the fog

of discussion in urging people to take the comforts of the West while remaining true to themselves.

"Should we wear trousers?" he was recently asked. "Why not? Should we sit in the dark because electricity comes from the West?" he replied.

Among most people the debate rises no further than general acquiescence to the proposition that foreigners are a damaging influence: the greater questions of how to turn King Abdul Aziz's empire into a state and how to discipline an independent, even lawless, people to productive labour are left to the radicals among commentators in the government. Although the Third Plan has not been published, the indications are that they will have their way.

Any such changes will be

deeply unpopular. There must be some doubts over whether the government still possesses the moral authority to impose so fundamental a change.

If the shift can be interpreted as westernization, there is unlikely to be opposition from the ulama, the senior divines. They retain a powerful hold on the country, but one that has recently been used for an essentially trivial conservatism, for instance, in the way that the Society for the Encouragement of Virtue and the Elimination of Vice—often erroneously called the religious police—raid hairdressers in Jeddah and beat up women found in them.

Jubaihan ibn Saif al-Ostabi, the leader of the Mecca insurgents, regarded the ulama as having sold out to the establishment. Certainly the tradition

remains of close collaboration with the temporal powers, if such a distinction is valid in the Kingdom, and while they have pushed for the appearance of piety to be retained, their very success indicates how little influence they have on the more important aspects of development.

The fact that they should be given their head, illustrates how much the government has abdicated its responsibility to provide strong, clear and frequently intolerant leadership. More than once King Faisal simply ignored their protests; unlikely nowadays, in the cities, too the mutaween who are the public evidence of the influence of the ulama are increasingly treated with derision as society more and more divides into groups without the common experience and interests religion and poverty once gave.

The Third Plan may well knit the breach between prosperous city and declining countryside of the past five years: official hints have said that agriculture and rural industrial development will take precedence over investment in the large towns. In the cities, mobility is being reduced, easy money more elusive, and most people have found their way to the non-royal elite talking much of their manners from the West and growing further away from the poor and the new middle-classes.

Many westerners and Saudis see danger in such hope lying in the emergence of a strong ruler to rescue the Kingdom as King Faisal rescued it from the excesses and corruption of King Saud's sorry reign. No one questions that the new Faisal must come from the royal family, few Saudis, however, would wish altogether to abandon their traditions.

It is recognized that by and large the Royal family has done a good job of development. An appearance of moderate pace has concealed real advances in the general standard of living. The fear is that the shift could lead to some undefined nadir while the government lacks the moral strength to reform (concluded).

Timothy Sisley

Geoffrey Smith

Foreign policy how not to come a cropper

There were two dimensions to the Iranian sanctions fiasco this week. Principal attention has rightly been given to the effect upon our allies of such a ready reversal of an international commitment. But the Government would never have got into this mess if more thought had been given to how foreign policy should be conducted at a time when Parliament has become more assertive.

It is no more than a half-truth to say that the decision to make sanctions retroactive was abandoned because ministers believed they would be defeated in the House of Commons. The Chief Whip certainly warned his colleagues of this danger when the Prime Minister convened a meeting of senior ministers within a few hours of Sir Ian Gilmour being given such a rough ride when he made his statement to the House on Monday afternoon. This warning related both to the emergency debate that the Speaker had granted for Tuesday afternoon and, more particularly, to the subsequent votes on orders to apply the sanctions.

But what was especially significant is that the grounds for this warning were never tested. It can have been no more than an informed guess. There was not time after Sir Ian's statement for a thorough check to have been made of members' opinions. In any case, it is well known that squalls of parliamentary fury may suddenly subside when the Whips apply their pressure.

Yet the possibility of bringing enough of the critics into line was never discussed at the Prime Minister's meeting. The Chief Whip's assertion was made and never challenged, as it surely must have been that this had been the only reason for reverting the commitment.

Had Lord Carrington argued that it was essential for international reasons that the policy should stand he would no doubt have questioned the Chief Whip's position. But the Chief Whip was not the position he took. Any idea that he was overruled by his colleagues is wide of the mark.

He and they decided that this was not an issue on which they were prepared to defy backbench opinion. They knew that no serious challenge to the House that the sanctions would not be retroactive, but they recognized that this was the general impression that had been conveyed.

A paper from Brussels

This was not a case of deliberately misleading the House for the simple reason that it was a faithful reflection of ministerial attitudes when the Bill was going through Parliament last week. In discussions between ministers before the meeting of the EEC foreign ministers last week, retroactive sanctions were not excluded, but they were not contemplated either. Britain did not take the initiative in that direction. It appears to have come from a paper prepared in Brussels by officials of member nations of the Community.

In making this commitment Britain's negotiators were not going beyond their remit from the Cabinet, retroactive sanctions had not been ruled out. What they failed to do was to take sufficient account of parliamentary opinion. This is the point of significance for the future. There were some special factors in this instance.

The degree of myopia that has been evident in the Foreign Office's handling of the affair does not, one hopes, have to be accepted as a permanent feature of British Government. Throughout the whole sanctions saga there has been a

notable lack of concern among ministers in the House that it was necessary to take any action to prepare the case for their will more vig in Parliament.

Note this, it would be a mistake to dismiss this isolated episode. The way in which the House on Monday was in keeping with trend for the present age of MPs to assert the more than their predecessors. There is no reason to think that foreign policy can be conducted in this way today will not accept that this is too a matter to be settled of the children.

In Britain we have accustomed to looking at the way in which the President initiative in foreign policy in a closely reasoned published in Washington year David M. Abshire, Assistant Secretary of State from 1970 to 1973, argued that every aspect of congressional power in the Vietnam experience demonstrated the danger of foreign policy without the support of the public. The Johnson and Nixon administrations failed to do this, and it was effectively informed or involved in making.

A more active role

If such a case can be made for Congress's role in policy it is easy to see how much more limited exercised by Parliament Westminster, even to count of present or more active parliament is a necessary means to get foreign policy out of the box of a public opinion.

It is that happens in a country's foreign policy is bound ultimately to any case, so many a national policy these subject to international situation that it would be able to safeguard than democratic challenge. Yet international present a special case it would be impossible to subject to parliamentary vision. The process of national negotiation is weaken a national government if that policy is not immobilized.

There are times when legislation is justified in advance of approval. But it is foolish to suggest parameters for a national policy should always be a national policy. No country can afford to ignore the fact that if the reform of its natives was always advertised.

How then can a balance be struck? suggest, by rigid rules the acceptance of the propositions. A great of parliamentaries in the conduct of force than has been cast Britain is inevitable ultimately be healthy.

That intervention is short of the control of the country. And both Ministers on handling foreign policy have to take closer constant account of in Parliament if they come a cropper again.

*Foreign Policy Makers by Congress. By Abshire. A Sage Publications for the C. Strategic and Intelligence Studies, Georgetown U.

One of a number of Irish myths is that Partition was an Orange-card-trick. Serious students of the history will discover that successive British governments never wanted it. The Government of Ireland Act 1920 made provision for a Council of Ireland. Its purpose was defined in an Explanatory Memorandum:

"Although at the beginning there are to be two Parliaments and two Governments in Ireland the Act contemplates and provides every facility for union between North and South, and empowers the two Parliaments by mutual agreement and joint action to terminate partition and to set up one Parliament and one Government for the whole of Ireland."

Meanwhile, there was to be a "bond of union" through a Council of Ireland of 20 from each Parliament. This was "to initiate proposals for united action" for the two Parliaments.

The Act came into force in May 1921, but the Parliament of Northern Ireland never met to any purpose. Sinn Féin separatism had overruled Home Rule and the southern membership of the Council was never elected. Which was no fault of the British, nor indeed of the Ulster Unionists. The parliament of Northern Ireland appointed its representatives to the Council of Ireland as early as June 1921; but the parliament or *Oireachtas* of the Irish Free State never reciprocated. So the Council of Ireland did not function. Yet matters specifically reserved to it by the Act

of 1920 were for a time exercised by an Imperial Secretary in Belfast.

That Partition was not the play of an imperial power determined to divide and rule was demonstrated by Lloyd George's efforts to persuade Sir James Craig (afterwards Lord Craigavon) to end it. Craig stubbornly resisted the advances made in correspondence, and the assistance of Thomas Jones and Sir Edward Grey (afterwards Lord Altrincham). Financial carrots were dangled. The sticks of customs barriers were brandished. All to no avail. Both in India and Ireland, to quit was to split. Hardly ever, if at all, had either constituted a single political unit, save under British hegemony.

In Ireland, reunification was not ruled out. Carson, a southerner whose ambition was to become a leader of all Ireland, was not the only unionist to disbelieve in the permanence of Partition. What perpetuated it was not so much northern bigotry as southern behaviour. Kevin O'Higgins saw how the horrors of the worst civil war, that of Free Staters and Republicans, intensified northern isolationism. No wonder the Orangemen are not hooting him so many fleas across the Border in their anxiety to come within our fold and jurisdiction. Again: "It is useless to seek to abolish the boundary

by law until we have abolished it in our hearts."

The pillars of the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland are democracy and self-determination. The north-east of Ireland has always been different from the South. Its distinct personality is older than the Plantagenets, older even than the Gaels. The Ulster movement against Home Rule was a mass movement.

In April 1914 a trade union manifesto, presented at the alliance of British Labour with the Redmondites. It was signed by 2,000 trade unionists and leading union officials. They condemned the nationalist of Ramsay MacDonald that the workers of Belfast had been "led away by the cooked news of the Tory Press". The manifesto moreover repudiated on behalf of the only "fully organized and articulated" trade unionists in Ireland the suggestion that Ulster was being manipulated by "an aristocratic plot". Carson had been chosen to lead by "the people, the democracy of Ulster".

According to the last *Tales* but one, Mr Liam Cosgrave, "We accepted under the Treaty of 1921, which is part of the foundation and origin of the state, that the north-eastern counties have opted out and that we can-

not expect them to come back into any all-Ireland framework without their consent." That consent has been withheld, by the votes cast in successive elections for Unionist parties and the pro-Union Alliance and in the Border Poll of 1973. In 1978 a survey done by the Economic and Social Research Institute of Dublin found that three-quarters of Northern Ireland people, including nearly half the Roman Catholics, favoured links with Britain.

"Geography (a Sinn Féin writer in 1910) has worked hard to make one nation out of Ireland; history has worked against it. The island of Ireland and the national unit of Ireland simply do not coincide. . . . After 300 years England has begun to despair of compelling us to love her by force. And so we are anxious to start where England left off, and we are going to compel her to love us and to let us go by force."

He made the same point as later did Edward Healy: "You might as well say that Spain ought to absorb Portugal."

Physical force republicanism has been self-defeating. The loyalist north was also alienated when by stages and stealth the Crown was stripped away and the "Eire" left the Commonwealth, although it had already

provided at India's behest for something like *de Valera's* external association. Leo Abshire has recorded a last talk with Kevin O'Higgins shortly before his murder.

"... it is suggested that a more intimate economic and military cooperation between the United Kingdom and Eire than existed within the wider Commonwealth would be the natural consequence of our geographical position and past history. He was, I think, far-seeing enough to realize that only on some such lines would it be possible ever to bring Ulster to join in a united Ireland."

But despite everything, there is a very special relationship and a virtual common, though not wholly reciprocal, citizenship between the Kingdom and the Republic. Mr Liam Cosgrave was addressing the 1900 Club, with which "Bloody" Badrour was once associated, when he spoke of the religious divide across the border and also cited trade union, banking and sporting links. Loyalist Ulstermen play for "Ireland", even if the tricolour is displayed instead of, as would be proper, the cross of St Patrick. At an Army reception in Limerick early in the current troubles, a twinned Ulster lady was heard to exclaim: "The trouble with

you English is that you don't want us Irish to remain British."

Mrs Thatcher had not yet declared her party "rock firm for the Union", nor, as Prime Minister, delivered the first Airey Neave Memorial Lecture, described the Irish Republic as "more intimately related than any other members of the Community or any members of the Commonwealth."

The Council of Ireland used to be Unionist policy. Since Sunningdale the idea arouses Unionist fears and republican hopes. There, however, came for a Council of the British Isles for cooperation and consultation, without prejudice to the sovereignty and status of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or indeed the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Kevin O'Higgins's desire for military cooperation at present offends against the neutrality of the Republic. Yet the Republic needs as much as does the United Kingdom a more effective common defence against the common external enemy. Both countries should, moreover, work closely together to obtain for the Irish regions the full advantage of European aid and investment.

For these our "Islands of the North Atlantic", the felicitous acronym "IONA" has been devised. Iona has through centuries been a symbol and a vision on both sides of the Irish Sea.

John Biggs-Davison

The author is Conservative MP for Epping Forest.

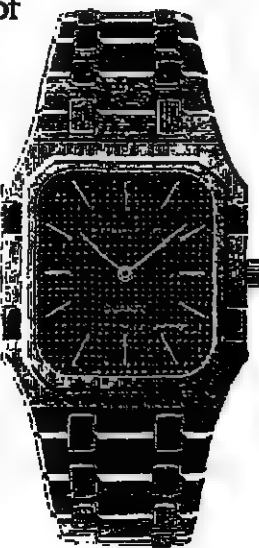
The ties that still bind Britain and Ireland

"Is this," I teased, "the acceptable face of innovation?"

I was surprised to see a quartz watch made by Audemars Piguet. That they had, for once, forsaken the dedicated craftsmanship of the traditional movement for the wizardry of electronics.

But when I examined it more closely, I could see that this was no ordinary quartz watch. The slimmest of the shimmering case, the fine workmanship, the delicacy of design were unmistakably the handiwork of Audemars Piguet.

He glanced benevolently over the half-moons of his spectacles. "Even for us," he said, "time doesn't stand still."



Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

MOSCOW MONEY DIARY

Very few people in the West know how to use the Soviet Union, a military superpower with a vast internal economy, has a currency that is officially worthless outside its own frontiers. You cannot legally take rubles in or out of the country, you cannot use Soviet money in payment on Soviet ships, trains or planes outside the USSR and you cannot use rubles to pay for any international transaction apart from buying an airline ticket (which cannot be refunded for western currency). No country seems to hold its own currency in such contempt.

Yet the ruble is officially worth 71 pence. Does not fluctuate in value and is said to be backed by the massive Soviet gold reserve. It would appear to be a stable and attractive monetary unit.

But everyone knows that the exchange rate fixed by the Russians is totally artificial. The real market value of the ruble is about a quarter of the rate decreed by the state bank. The law is exceedingly strict on currency transaction, and the penalties for changing money on the black market are severe—up to eight years in a labour camp. But the Russians themselves have such a bewildering array of exceptions and loopholes in the regulations that it is often hard for a foreigner to find his way through the economic maze. The confusion is probably intentional. To accuse someone of currency violations is always

a useful card if you want to find a reason for expelling him. If you come here as a tourist you will soon learn some of the peculiarities. On entering the country you have to declare all the money in your possession. This enables you to change back any unused rubles on leaving to the value of the western currency you can prove you have exchanged. If you end up with more rubles, you have clearly been up to no good.

When you change your money — don't forget to keep the receipt — you may want to buy a few souvenirs. But if you go to any of the main souvenir shops you will find they do not accept rubles. You can pay only in "hard" — i.e. capitalist — currency. And in these hard currency shops choice items such as fur hats and decorated wooden plates are not only more available than in ordinary shops, but are about half the price.

There are plenty of other things you cannot buy with rubles. Tourists will not accept Soviet currency for any excursions it organizes — though western credit cards are perfectly welcome.

If you are resident here you can't pay your rent, take a taxi, subscribe to news agencies, or handling charges for goods imported by road in rubles. And such things as insurance policies, hotel bills and even ballet tickets are also better paid in foreign currency. But the real confusion begins

when you find out there are several kinds of rubles with different effective values. There is a network of shops for foreign residents which accept payment only in ruble coupons, and in these semi-secret establishments, such as the black market, you can get imported food and drinks, radios and electrical items and clothes for some-thing of the price on the open market — if they are even available.

Westerners have to buy their coupons for hard currency at the bank for Soviet rubles (where you are not even allowed to keep your bank account in rubles). But East Europeans have different coupons for use in different shops, and diplomats from some third world countries have yet another system.

These coupon shops are a source of all kinds of shady deals. Russians are not allowed to hold foreign currency, but those working for westerners are entitled to a percentage of coupons, and thus able to use the shops. The less scrupulous, and especially some third world diplomats, buy goods in the coupon shops and resell them on the black market for rubles for enormous profit.

Recently diplomats from one Middle Eastern country were seen buying headscarves by the bucket which they loaded quite openly into their cars. When someone asked why this was allowed, the shop assistant shrugged her shoulders and remarked: "Well, they supported us over Afghanistan". It is said that for an outfit of a few hundred dollars, a diplomat can make over 20,000 rubles reselling these goods.

The Soviet authorities have tried several times to stop all this, and even contemplated abolishing coupons and substituting personal credit cards for all foreign residents.

However the authorities turn a blind eye to much speculation, especially where third

world residents and students are concerned. By informal practice the state bank cannot offer different exchange rates for the ruble to different countries. But some African embassies can only make ends meet in Moscow by smuggling in soft rubles bought abroad and concealed in diplomatic bags.

This is categorically forbidden by the British, American and most other western embassies. But it is no secret that in the Middle East, Switzerland, Hong Kong and elsewhere rubles can be bought very cheaply. The intriguing question is how does this money find its way out of the Soviet Union.

A certain amount is taken out by Soviet sailors and travellers who are willing to sell it very cheaply because they know that with the money they receive they can buy goods and services not available at home, and their return for the cost of the rubles they exchanged abroad.

An acquaintance once asked a Swiss bank for Soviet currency, and where the bank got it from. "I cannot discuss bank business," the teller replied, but ostentatiously brought from the safe a wad of new rubles in a wrapper stamped with a Soviet government stamp. The customer had his answer.

The result is that third world diplomats often have enormous quantities of rubles, and will happily pay outrageous prices

for a second-hand M. other consumer durables cannot get to their offices. Diplomats — to sell cars and such washing machines to and many westerners who profit this way their embassies are change their rubles for the home currency.

The British Embassy posed strict rules on this shady area of a diplomat selling his keep only the equal purchase price of transport and imp. The rest must be charity. When 60 families left Moscow men ago, they donated about \$1 charity.

Like so much in Union, the precise de law on currency regulation difficult to obtain bureaucrats themselves know. Some airport will allow you to single ruble note as other will insist you all first. But what is it that after you pay tons and exchange come to the airport where there is a but sells wines, champagne refreshments. And renty do they accept of course.

Michael

مكتبة من الأصول

THE TIMES

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صكذ من الاصل

CANDID FRIENDSHIP

On the opposite page of a series of five articles of Arabia by Mr Timothy who recently returned to that country where he had our correspondent. On page we publish a report by Lord Carrington who deplores the damage Anglo-Saudi relations by a *Death of a Princess* and of the need to "strive to understanding" about di-way of life.

of a Princess was open because it did not be a serious attempt to and Saudi society. It id the atmosphere of and rumour with which aspects of Saudi society rounded in order to consalacious detective story usly presented as fact, have exploited the same here to propagate garbled about attempted coups princely thefts from odi Arabian Monetary ty, and public denuncia the royal family, by religious officials, and we accused *The Times* inter newspapers of com- not venality, because I not repeat such blant.

y there are some people ck they have an interest og doubts in the West audi Arabia's stability, ntment in Saudi Arabia, western attitudes. Who is have such an interest.

HUSAK'S DISMAL DICTATORSHIP

k has just been elected her five-year term as t of Czechoslovakia. He as much a product of aggression as is Mr in Afghanistan; just as the unsuccessful and leader of an occupied Although he did not party leader until the following the invasion of although he had some from party colleagues, guidly thought he e some of the freedoms year before, he would been elected, nor would survived as party leader resident, without the political and military of the Soviet Union. other hand he did have in the early stages to a degree of support oding from his people. i have attempted a reon, as Mr Kadar did in some years after the u of 1956, by drawing under the past and ng that "those who are ist us are with us". He ve kept open links with mists of 1968, some of re ready to work within reality of Soviet occu- save at least remnants orms. He could have to the realism and of the Czechoslovak help him to do his best a in adverse circum- Perhaps the Russians en have ousted him but have got away with it.

WS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING

e chief points of concern e from the rather "great debate" on promoted by the last not concerned Britain's ings in securing an supply of the skills and eeded by industry. It is e this failure is a signifi- in Britain's industrial The Central Policy taff, the Government's ank" has been follow- e theme, and reported k in a document dry, ut scathing. Since there ul forces of inertia gainst acceptance of its ne, there is serious hat it will pass into without being acted eports making similar e done in the past.

ort identifies some of a in attitudes among at foster a bias in academic subjects in points out again the ity of a system of ay which refuses to out of supply and by rewarding shortage a mathematics, while objection to rewarding far less useful embel- of a university degree, shortcomings in the schools appear almost insignificant beside the entrenched and time-honoured deficiencies described in the arrangements for training within industry itself.

In many other countries the Government is closely involved in the details of industrial training (the report might have relaxed its brevity a little to examine these arrangements, instead of merely remarking—just enough no doubt—that such things do not transplant easily from one society to another). In Britain, the Government has left matters mainly to be settled between management and unions in the industries concerned. It is an indictment of prevailing attitudes on both sides that this has meant the perpetuation in many instances of arrangements that are inefficient, inflexible, and shamefully unjust.

When the strongholds of privilege in our society are decied, the apprenticeship system seldom receives much attention. Yet the use of industrial qualifications to close off many of the most rewarding areas of employment to those not fortunate enough to gain apprenticeships at the age of 17 is a scandal not dissimilar in its effects to the old eleven-plus examination. At least a third of pupils who leave school at 16 go into jobs where they receive virtually no training, and therefore are never likely to receive any training at any time in their working lives. The injustice to the unskilled is coupled with an injustice to women, who are less likely to receive industrial training.

Quite apart from the waste of talent that this system entails, it perpetuates archaic demarcations of skill which changed techniques have often made completely irrelevant. Retraining too, which becomes increasingly important as the pace of technological change grows, is neglected and obstructed. What is needed, as this report argues, is a modular organisation of training, so that skills (objectively defined and universally accepted) can be gained in stages throughout an individual's working life, without artificial barriers to access based on age, sex or status. Much of this was pointed out by the Donovan Commission 12 years ago, and little has changed since. The Manpower Services Commission is to report on the same problem later this year. It should come up with constructive proposals to overcome the system's ingrained resistance to change.

of forestry
reference to the Chief Officer's letter (May 9), e, ungracious to denigrate service of past and nerations of the forestry n. We submit, however, anancial return on the very ment in this nationalized a pitifully small for assessing the most favour- nation of climate and r the growth of forest he northern hemisphere. for this state of affairs examination as ruthlessly at of other nationalized for in forestry there is e demand for our cor- own produce and the r our failure lies in the

The peace of Jerusalem

From Brigadier Lord Ballantine
Sir, My inexperience of the "Palestine" to use a word which is a hitherto remarkably smooth facade or that corruption in high places is extensive and arouses widespread resentment. Members of the Saudi Government have admitted this and have pledged themselves to do something about it. To point to the need for change is not to insist that a Muslim society ape an inappropriate western model. It is to echo the concern of very many educated Saudis who themselves feel that the industrialising, bureaucratic Kingdom of today can no longer be managed in the personal, absolutist style of King Abdul Aziz.

The Iranian revolution will certainly not be repeated in Saudi Arabia. Far too many features distinguish the two societies for that. But that does not mean that nothing can go wrong. Saudi Arabia went through a very bad patch in the late fifties and early sixties, under the incompetent rule of King Saud. That kind of instability would be far more damaging to the world as a whole in the economic and political circumstances of today. To draw attention to this danger and to urge Saudi Arabia's rulers to take it seriously, is the act not of an ill-wisher but of a sincere friend. And a friend who is aware of the problems will also avoid putting pressure on the Saudi rulers to adopt policies—in such matters as the Palestine problem or oil pricing—which would make those problems harder to manage.

To plead with the "hawks" would be a waste of time; but in praying for peace it might not be unrealistic to hope that a large body exists of potential peace-makers who have not yet covered their full influence for a more generous and understanding policy. If they were to do so, there might still be some prospect of dawn in the darkness, just as one has so often rejoiced to see the sun rising over Meb.

Yours obedient servant,
BALLANTINE,
Auchincloss,
Bathmore,
Ayrshire,
May 19.

Africa's refugee crisis

From Professor Richard Greenfield
Sir, In many ways there are wider dimensions to the Somali refugee crisis to which Mr Louis FitzGibbon properly draws attention (May 8). I, too, can vouch personally for vast numbers of refugees—genuinely agreed to leave their homelands in search of a more peaceful and secure life. The Somali Democratic Republic. But they are by no means the whole story. A tenth of the population of the barren and torrid Republic of Djibouti are refugees, also from Ethiopia and Eritrea. There has been little publicity and their plight remains precarious. Moreover, next month, the Sudan is to hold a pledging conference appealing for aid for yet a further million, again nearly all from Eritrea and Ethiopia. And there are lesser numbers of Ethiopian refugees too in Kenya, Saudi Arabia, and throughout the rest of the world.

Earlier this month the Ethiopian Provisional Government itself appealed for aid for nearly five million people (largely Oromo), whom a ministerial commission has just discovered to be on the verge of starvation in the south of the emirate-state.

There are of course other remedial options open, such as calling off fighter-bombers, soldiers and mercenaries to scourge the area and settle highlanders from traditional Abyssinia on lands acquired during the scramble for Africa (or later as in the case of Eritrea). In all, Africa's fever for self-determination is now understandably rife. The human flood of refugees and displaced persons is and around the tormented Ethiopian empire is really a military problem, if by far the largest in the world, centred on one country.

The overall refugee crisis in north-east Africa cries out not only for urgent and immediate relief but for long-term resolution. History will surely judge us on how we have perceived causes rather than symptoms. A Catholic bishop in the United States recently warned in the context of refugees in Somalia that "the world cannot cope with more than one catastrophe at a time". Let me be right, it might be noted that except for a bigger airlift and the use of largely surrogate rather than Soviet troops, there is little difference between the situation in Ethiopia and that in Afghanistan. Neither regime is remotely representative, nor would they last five minutes without Russian support. Both are pawns in the same wider game.

Thus, if as is to be hoped, a resolution by conference of current world crises in the middle East is to be attempted, let not that posed by Africa's last empire be overlooked.

Yours truly,
RICHARD GREENFIELD,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.

Dealing with violence

From Mr S. P. Thompson
Sir, Your correspondent Mr K. W. Lidstone (May 20) is certainly inexperienced and very naive if he believes that, in certain circumstances, the Queen's Peace can be effectively carried out without some resort to the "Ways and Means Act"—a time-honoured police expression for the use of discretion in situations inadequately foreseen by the legislators in their ivory tower.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. THOMPSON,
(Retired Police Superintendent),
The Corner House,
Willington, Cheshire.

Retaining Britain's nuclear capability

From the Deputy Director of the Institute of Strategic Studies
Sir, It is with some trepidation that I follow three former Chiefs of Defence Staff into the marsh but I believe that there is more to be said about the maintenance or otherwise of Britain's nuclear deterrent forces than has been said so far in these columns.

Sir Neil Cameron stands for the continuation of the deterrent more or less in its present form; he stresses the importance of independence of control and he is not unhappy at the prospect of meeting the cost from a defence budget, which we must presume to remain more or less at today's levels. Lord Hill-Norton, in supporting Sir Neil Cameron, stresses the deterrent effect of nuclear weapons, doubts the validity of the American guarantee and argues that Britain's deterrent forces not only act powerfully to protect our own vital interests against threats or blackmail but also those of our European Allies. Lord Carver, on the other hand, questions whether British nuclear forces would be used in circumstances where American forces would not but he is not prepared to differentiate between Britain and the rest of NATO Europe, which comes to a Soviet military adventure.

He then— and rightly in my view —brings the debate firmly to the question of dependence or independence of control, a question which is somewhat slippery between "strategic" and "tactical" weapons systems. He argues that theatre systems—other than American—are "bad". Finally, Lord Carver rests his case on the impact that a decision in favour of Trident would have on conventional re-equipment programmes.

I fully realize that this summary does not do justice to the arguments presented, but the outlines of the debate are clearly stated here. I would like to address myself to three issues only: cost, the value of independent control and the strategic/theatre distinction.

It seems abundantly clear that the decision to go for Trident will have a profound impact on Britain's conventional capabilities in the 1990s and beyond. Many of us are concerned about the rising costs of defence quite independent of the cost of a system to replace Polaris. It is hard to see how, given the trends of manpower and equipment costs, the Government can continue to maintain the capabilities of conventional forces at their current levels into the 1990s without a substantial increase in the defence budget for we have to make the pessimistic assumption that there will not be a period of rapid growth in the economy. To set aside in the budget a large sum for the Trident programme can only increase the pressure. What Sir Neil Cameron does not point out is that 7 per cent of the budget (a modest proportion of the whole perhaps) amounts to almost 18 per cent of the money set aside for equipment procurement as a whole and no less than 26 per cent of the amount set aside this year for the production of new equipment. Something big would have to go to absorb a Trident programme.

The question of independent control is, I must admit, vexed. The fact that Britain and France could use their nuclear forces on the sole authority of their governments must complicate Soviet calculations. The uncertainty as to outcomes on which deterrence ultimately rests must be increased by the possibility that NATO may, in the event, not be united. The British and French stake in the integrity of Western Europe is clearly greater than the American stake and this increases the likelihood that either or both might use the weapons that each possesses to preserve that integrity. Whether or not Britain can credibly extend deterrence to the territory of her allies must be a matter for doubt too, so long as the Soviet Union is unable confidently to assume that a nuclear threat or a nuclear attack against the United Kingdom would not elicit a nuclear response, the bargaining position of this country would be stronger.

The uncomfortable part of such a statement is that we may only be able to claim sanctuary status for ourselves through the possession of invulnerable retaliatory forces and this may diminish the value of the British deterrent for our allies. The more comfortable assumption is that the Soviet Union has to calculate the extent to which British (as well as French and American) interests are indissolubly tied to the security of Western Europe. We may indeed, as Lord Carver argues, be self-deterred in the event, but that seems to matter less than the fact that the value to the Soviet Union of the annihilation of the United Kingdom may be less than the value to the Soviet Union of what the United Kingdom could destroy.

I remain unhappy about the strategic/theatre distinction. I, like Lord Hill-Norton, incline to the belief that nuclear weapons are not usable or useful in fighting a war although I am convinced that they tend to deter the other side from using nuclear weapons both prior to and during a conflict. Given that the Soviet Union possesses a wide variety of nuclear weapons, I consider it important that NATO should possess nuclear weapons in order to deter Soviet Union first use and that there should be a sufficient range of options available to NATO so that the response can be proportional to the threat posed. The United Kingdom can—and probably should—contribute to that range of options pro rata either by contributing to NATO's industrial delivery systems for American dual-key nuclear warheads or by producing systems of our own to add to the common NATO pool.

Some will deter the use of Soviet short-range nuclear systems; others by threatening to strike the Soviet Union—should deter the use of Soviet systems against industrial or strategic military targets in Western Europe.

The logical consequence of this line of reasoning is that NATO must be prepared to deploy conventional strength sufficient to make it uncertain that the Soviet Union could achieve any worthwhile objective in Europe by conventional means alone.

We should therefore, in my view, consider what insurance premium we should be prepared to pay for the additional national and Alliance security provided by an independent long-range nuclear capability. My fear is that the premium may be set at the point where the conventional premium can no longer be afforded and has to be reduced. No one should pretend that it is an easy choice to make but what I sense is that by being encouraged to ask for the best that money can buy—which is probably Trident—the Government's advisers have overlooked (or deliberately ignored) less expensive but probably adequate deterrent systems. Anyone invited to choose a car will go for the best on the market, supplied by not having to pay for it himself, but there are other forms of motor transport available which are undeniably cheaper. If we cannot afford a Rolls-Royce, we should not scorn the humble Mini. It may be much better than nothing.

I have argued elsewhere that there are alternative ways of either the run-on of Polaris or a cruise missile variant—which are undeniably less up-market than Trident but which will do the job while still allowing us to maintain our conventional capabilities more or less unimpaired. The choice is between Trident or nothing. It need not be so starkly presented. In the rather frightening world that lies ahead I would however feel more comfortable if we had some means with which to bargain in confrontation with the Soviet Union.

JONATHAN ALFORD,
Deputy Director,
International Institute for
Strategic Studies,
23 Tavistock Street, WC2.

The maintenance muddle

From Dr J. R. Allan
Sir, Until the last two paragraphs David Green's long article on maintenance (*The Times*, May 12) he leaves aside the fundamental issue of whether a right to maintenance can remain under a no-fault divorce law and concentrates on calculations. In view of the widely held opinion that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of ex-wives, it is hard to believe that David Green is serious when he proposes to push the balance still further in the same direction by creating a liability to maintain by orders in those cases where it does not currently exist and increasing that liability in others.

The acid test of any such proposal is to try a worked example using representative input data. Take, for example, a case where the husband earns £8,000 and the wife £4,000. Under the present law the wife would probably receive no maintenance because she already earns one-third of the joint gross income. From David Green's graph this same wife would be awarded 43 per cent of the joint income, or £5,160, and the husband would be ordered to pay her £1,160 per annum.

However, the anomalies in David Green's proposal do not all favour the ex-wife. For example he proposes that the parties' gross income should "be specifically adjusted for notional factors—bringing in income values for benefits in kind . . . etc. Let us suppose, in the example given above, that there is £30,000 capital in the matrimonial home in which the wife is given rights of occupation while the husband is excluded—a common enough decision these days. Her notional income would be 15 per cent of £15,000 or £2,250 per annum, giving her total gross income of £6,250 and taking the joint gross income to £14,250. Entering these figures into David Green's graph reveals her "entitlement" as 41 per cent of the joint gross income or £5,863. To behold, she now has to pay maintenance to him at the rate of £407 per annum! This part of David Green's proposal will certainly have the approval of all those ex-husbands deprived of their share of the matrimonial home under the present law.

It has to be concluded that these proposals are less likely "to iron out the maintenance muddle" than to iron in the creases of injustice. Mr Green quotes the Canadian Law Commission's suggestion " . . . that maintenance where ordered should be viewed as a temporary and transitional relief . . . " a view broadly similar to that expressed in the first *Times* article under the heading "The Divorce Debate, 1980" (February 14). Can one detect a developing consensus?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. ALLAN,
The Spinnery,
Farnside,
Upper Hale,
Farnham, Surrey.

Funds for the Acropolis

From Mr B. F. Cook
Sir, Other readers have dealt appropriately with Mr Bernard Levin's schoolboy howlers about Apollo and the Parthenon (article, May 13). They were amusing rather than offensive. Where Mr Levin has given offence is in implying that the Greeks can be expected to misappropriate the funds raised in this country and abroad for work on the Acropolis. In fact, every shilling so far spent on conservation of the Acropolis and its buildings has been provided by the Greeks themselves.

Mr Levin has insulted the Greek nation and has severely offended those who, like myself, have the honour to know the members of the Greek Government's Committee for the Preservation of Acropolis Monuments as colleagues and friends.

Sir, I protest.

Yours faithfully,
B. F. COOK,
Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities,
The British Museum,
Great Russell Street, WC1,
May 16.

Aim of academic research work

From Mr Michael Posner
Sir, Yesterday you kindly printed a short note from me which, incidentally, defended the principle of free academic endeavour in the field of anthropology. Today (May 22) you print a long letter from Mr T. S. Maxwell of the Ashmolean, suggesting that I wish to expel the Master of Balliol for wasting his time with Aristotle. Your readers might well be puzzled.

In fact, as your education correspondent correctly reported, we have been urged by many of our academic colleagues to find out what happens to the several hundred students who we launch into research training each year. We found, for one bunch, that six or seven years after they started writing theses, less than half had finished. In many cases, as I told the Public Accounts Committee, there are good academic reasons for such relatively long-lived projects; but at the high tables where I have dined recently I find most academic colleagues raised their eyebrows at these figures, and, in the less polite circles of Whitehall and Westminster, some people raise their voices as well.

I am inclined to think that, while in some physical sciences, senior students define a "PhD thesis" as the sort of book that a first-class, hard-working young man can finish in two or three years, in some other subjects we have different definitions, which may not be the best ones to use. Mr Maxwell's baptism and most academically bright students are often those working with a group of other scholars, senior or junior, in a close partnership.

Not always, of course. And, since I at the moment live next door to the Ashmolean, perhaps I should say that I have "no territorial ambitions" to colonise the world of the true and beautiful in which "many of my best friends" live. (Perhaps, to avoid further misunderstanding, I should say that the words in inverted commas are intended to refer to the slightly more humdrum worlds of energy economics, the sociology of health or the study of voting systems. I think it not entirely inappropriate to discuss postgraduate work in the humdrum language of value for money.)

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POSNER,
Chairman,
Social Science Research Council,
1 Temple Avenue, EC4,
May 22.

Israel and Unesco

From Mr Peter Cotes
Sir, No words of mine are needed to defend Mr Menzlin from unjust slurs. It is manifestly clear that down the years he has used his art not only to give joy to countless millions but also to promote universal understanding between nations. What Mr Arthur Rubinstein alleges that his great fellow musician is a bad Jew, I would respectfully query whether it is not possible to be an orthodox Jew and a bad citizen? Not a bad citizen of Israel, of course, because Mr Rubinstein does not live in that country that he thinks it is his duty to defend—from, of all people, Mr Menzlin!

Arthur Rubinstein's "world" is, in my view, oddly insular, whilst that of Yehudi Menuhin, with its broad, bold and compassionate vision, has long embraced the entire universe. I sincerely trust that when wrong is done to some it is done at all. Jew and Arab form part of that brotherhood of all people of goodwill, unwilling to see the world as a number of warring states, and hungry to replace the senseless national territories with belief that men and women are separated by the illusion of national character rather than the truth of national characteristics.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
PETER COTES,
Stage Manager,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1,
May 17.

China's new missile

From Mr Gerald Segal
Sir, Your leader (May 19) on China's new missile properly pointed to the greater significance of Peking's intercontinental ballistic missile test for the West than for the USSR. In fact, every shilling spent to find a quick fix for its military inadequacy. However, the most important implication of all was omitted, i.e. that the Chinese test may well be the necessary prerequisite to a modicum of Sino-Soviet détente.

As a result of the unsustainability of any short-term military option for Peking and the need to negotiate from strength with Moscow, the Chinese test was necessary on both counts to lay the groundwork for at least a limited rapprochement with the USSR.

Sincerely,
GERALD SEGAL,
Lecturer, International Politics,
The University College of Wales,
Aberystwyth,
May 19.

A dubious privilege?

From Mr T. M. Thomas
Sir, Miss Julie Cowdry (May 21) complains that parliamentary privilege compels her to work some 20-hour days.

She does not tell you of the many three-day and four-day weeks it compels her to work in those months when Parliament is not busy, nor about the four months a year when the House of Commons is in recess and compels her to be on paid holiday.

I understand that there were 500 applications recently for a post in this overworked department—which ought to be sufficient comment.

Yours sincerely,
T. M. THOMAS,
Treasury House,
Whitehall,
London.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

17
When will
Sir Keith act
on Inmos?
Page 19

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British National Oil

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ion's future, page 18

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and Goshima.

Energy agency draws up measures to prevent rapid oil price increases

From Nicholas Hirst
Paris, May 22

The 21-nation International Energy Agency (IEA) agreed yesterday to call an emergency meeting of ministers in the event of an imminent reduction in oil supplies.

This was one of a series of decisions taken by the ministers in Paris to try to prevent the kind of price explosion which members of the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were able to bring about over the past 18 months.

The meeting took place against a background of oil price rises by Opec members in the past few days and expectations of oil availability during the 1980s sharply reduced from a year ago.

However, it was far from clear that individual countries would make the political commitment and take the necessary measures to cut consumption of another crisis were to recur, such as that triggered by the revolution in Iran.

The final communiqué from the meeting was vague and lacking specific details of how to prevent another crisis and it was stamped all over with compromise.

Mr David Howell, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Energy and British representative at the meeting which included all the leading oil consuming countries except France, said, however, that he believed that the agency was beginning to have a cutting edge. It was an achievement for 21 nations to have come so far in agreement on committing themselves to reduce oil consumption.

The commitments included action to be taken in the event of a shortage which threatened to push up prices, undersubsidies to underbought the import ceiling for IEA countries of 26.2 million barrels a day for 1985 fixed last December, and targets to reduce energy consumption by 1990.

None of these commitments, however, is very specific. Ministers agreed that if at any time tight market conditions appeared, they would meet at short notice.



Mr Niels Ersbøll, left, president of International Energy Agency's council of direction, in Paris yesterday with Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister.

The intention was to deal with a crisis which fell short of the long-standing IEA system to share out oil equally if any member lost 7 per cent or more of its supply. No trigger level was agreed for the meetings to be called but once a meeting had been called ministers would decide whether to impose further import ceilings on member countries or other forms of restraint.

There had been pressure from some nations for a commitment in advance to impose import cuts.

Monitoring of countries' oil use is to increase so that the IEA would have a better warning system and a better idea of what action to take if a shortage developed.

The United States had pushed for a specific reduction in the import goals for 1985. Ministers instead agreed that net oil imports "should substantially undershoot the ceiling, possibly by around four million barrels a day. This was not a commitment to reduce imports by four million barrels a day but Mr Howell interpreted it as a commitment to import less without saying specifically how much the reduction would be.

If notice were given to Opec

of exactly how much IEA members intended to reduce imports it might influence their production, he said.

A review by the IEA secretariat estimates that Opec production in 1985 and 1990 might be no more than in 1979, creating a potential shortage for the West of between 1.6 and 3 million barrels a day. Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the president said, IEA members had been influenced at their meeting by the rise in Opec prices over the past few days.

After the \$2 rise by Nigeria which meant that nearly all Opec countries had put up their prices again, Mr Howell expected operators in the North Sea led by the British National Oil Corporation to raise their prices in the next few days.

IEA countries are expected to reduce the rate of energy consumption to 60 per cent of the increase in economic growth by 1990 and to cut oil's share in primary energy consumption from the present 52 per cent to 40 per cent.

Ministers also agreed for the first time a number of criticisms of member countries' energy policies and made recommendations to reduce oil consumption and move to other energy sources.

Barclays to provide N Sea risk capital

By David Hewson

Barclays, the largest British clearing bank, intends to put up risk capital to back oil exploration in the North Sea.

The bank, which in March recorded profits of £529m, refused to disclose more than the bare details of its involvement last night.

But it is clear that Barclays's move represents the first serious shift by a British clearing bank towards using investors' money as equity investment behind speculative industrial projects.

Barclays is a member of several international consortiums involved in the latest round of licence applications for the North Sea, but refuses to name its partners and the possible level of investment.

Mr Peter Leslie, a general manager of Barclays Bank International, said: "We have decided, following approaches from a number of oil companies active in the North Sea, to undertake equity investment in oil exploration through participation in consortia of the consortiums preparing to apply for licences under the seventh round."

"Our decision reflects our desire as a British company to do all we can to support the further development of a vital part of the United Kingdom economy."

Barclays has provided more than £500m for North Sea oil projects in the past, but has never hinted that it was considering taking equity investment in such schemes.

The provision of risk capital, and the element of chance such decisions entail, has traditionally been the preserve of merchant banks whose investors have been prepared to accept the risk element involved in return for potentially higher rewards.

Barclays's decision is certain to provoke a reassessment among National Westminster, Lloyds, and Midland—the three other large clearing banks—of their attitudes towards equity investment.

The element of risk involved for Barclays, should its consortiums win licence applications, is considerable. A number of North Sea exploration projects fail to find oil in exploitable quantities. On the other hand, those which do strike oil are likely to find the venture extremely lucrative.

When banks are already being criticised for making excessive profits, such a shift could prove as embarrassing for Barclays as a highly publicized loss on oil exploration.

2p a gallon petrol rise expected

By Peter Hill

Petrol price increases of about 2p a gallon are likely after the reported Nigerian crude oil price rise of \$2 a barrel. This rise is expected to be followed by the British National Oil Corporation.

Shell UK announced that it was increasing its oil and petrol prices from midnight last night and that these rises took no account of recent Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) changes.

The price of two, three and four star petrol will rise by an estimated 2p a gallon at the pump. Derv commercial fuel and standard grade burning oil are also going up. Esso and BP put prices up at the end of last week.

The Nigerian decision has been awaited anxiously by officials of the state oil corporation, the largest North Sea oil producer.

Big oil companies operating in the North Sea then take the lead from the oil corporation. Nigeria's rise is the latest in a round of increases announced by members of Opec.

Eleven Opec countries have now announced price increases in the past week after Saudi Arabia lifted its crude oil price by \$2 a barrel and backdated it to the beginning of last month.

Nigeria's principal export grade will now be set at \$36.1 a barrel according to Petroleum Intelligence Weekly.

The British National Oil Corporation has tended to follow the Nigerian price movements to fulfil its contract obligations to North Sea oil producers.

Charterhouse Group to make agreed bid for Keyser Ullmann: share dealing is suspended

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Charterhouse Group, the financial and industrial holding company, is to make an agreed bid for Keyser Ullmann, the investment bank. A joint announcement yesterday said that the shares of both companies had been suspended pending the revelation of further details this afternoon after the stock market closes.

"A takeover of Keyser had been widely expected for several years, Mr Derek Wilde, the chairman of Keyser, said yesterday that this is a positive and useful sort of move that should be good for both parties."

Although no terms have been revealed, the expectation in the City is that the takeover will take the form of a share exchange after which the Keyser interests will represent around one third of the joint company and the Charterhouse interests the remaining two thirds.

Keyser Ullmann, once a fast growing bank specializing in property loans, experienced troubles during the fringe

banking crisis, and in 1975 it had to be rescued through the Bank of England "lifeboat" and the clearing banks.

Mr Edward Du Cann, its then chairman, Mr Jack Dellar, its deputy chairman, and three managing directors resigned. Mr Derek Wilde, a vice chairman of Barclays was brought in to sort out the problems and help in the rescue operation.

At the height of its troubles Keyser owed £65m to the lifeboat. But by 1977 it was out of difficulties.

After that, however, it never really managed to restore its fortunes as a bank. Although it had some £45m of shareholders' funds and around £50m of tax losses which could be used against profits, it was continually underlined.

For a merchant bank it found it difficult to get big corporate clients. The most important client is Lomho, and there are some other much smaller clients.

There are two strong overseas operations in Paris and Zurich, but neither is large enough to

compensate for the lack of United Kingdom business.

Charterhouse, which operates both as an industrial holding company — manufacturing accounts for 31 per cent of employed funds — and as a financial group which owns Charterhouse Japhet, one of the smaller accepting houses, has for a long time been seeking to tilt the balance of its business to financial services.

Banking accounts for only 13 per cent of employed funds of £105m and the deal with Keyser should create one of the bigger of City merchant banks with funds of some £60m.

More recently Charterhouse has begun to sell some of its industrial interests and this process is expected to continue. Its profits for 1979 were £11m and those of Keyser were £3m.

The two companies had already loose links through directors. Mr Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Charterhouse and Mr Derek Wilde, are both on the board of Barclays. Mr William MacKenzie, the deputy chairman of Slough Estates, one of the most important of Charterhouse clients, sits on the

board of Keyser, while Mr Nigel Mobbs is the chairman of Slough Estates.

The only really large shareholder of Charterhouse is the Prudential with 7.5 per cent of the shares. The Prudential also owns 17 per cent of the Keyser shares.

Our Financial Editor writes: Hill Samuel, one of the City's largest merchant banks, confirmed yesterday that a brief discussion had taken place with Merrill Lynch the world's largest brokerage house about the possibility of merging.

The American broker apparently took the initiative, but Hill Samuel was not interested and the idea, which never reached the stage of being a negotiation, has been dropped.

It was not clear when the talks took place, but apparently it was recently and leaked out on Wall Street earlier this week.

Both houses emphasized yesterday that the discussions were quite informal and of the sort that "often takes place in the City."

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Sign of change, page 19

Local authorities lift PSBR to £9,780m

By David Blake
Economics Editor

The public sector borrowing requirement last year was £9,780m. This was £600m more than estimated at the time of the April Budget and £2,200m more than the forecast made by the Chancellor in his first Budget last June.

late and unexpected surge in borrowing by local authorities cut the surplus for the public sector in the first quarter of 1980 to £190m after seasonal adjustment. Without seasonal factors there was a public sector surplus of £1,300m in the first quarter of the year.

During the same three months, local authorities borrowed £1,580m after allowing for seasonal factors. This was nearly five times as much as in the previous quarter. Of this, they borrowed £1,320m from sources other than central government, so national authorities have only just been able to produce the relevant figures.

Although the PSBR is a key target of government policy, figures on how it is developing are slow to appear.

The problem seems to have been that a combination of high pay rises and relatively modest

rate increases last year left local authorities strapped for cash. They were therefore forced to turn to the markets to cover the gap. There is no evidence at present that the balance between income and expenditure will be better this year.

Public corporations also ran into a less favourable financial position than expected, with slow payment of telephone bills leading to a deterioration of the Post Office's position.

The figures are bound to provide some embarrassment for the Government, because the Chancellor stressed very firmly last November that he intended to limit public borrowing to the £9,300m forecast at the time of his first Budget. To achieve this, he brought forward £700m of petroleum revenue tax and if this had not been done the PSBR would have been nearly £10,500m.

Forecasters of the PSBR are notoriously difficult to make and are thought to have a margin of error of £3,000m either way.

The Government's forecast for the PSBR for this financial year is £8,500m and it is committed to achieving a progressive reduction in future years.

Big Hongkong stake in UK carpet makers

By Catherine Gunn

In its fifth stockmarket raid — and its second this week — stockbroker Rowe & Pitman has taken a strategic stake in Carpets International, Britain's most important carpet manufacturer, on behalf of Hong Kong Carpet Manufacturers.

Carpets International (CI) was formed in April, 1969, with the merger of John Crossley Carpet Trade and Carpet Manufacturing, in an attempt to rationalize a fragmented and troubled industry.

Starting from a 4.9 per cent stake, Hong Kong Carpet Manufacturers' objective of a 29.9 per cent holding in CI was met within half an hour yesterday. Of the 5,940,000 shares acquired at 32p each, three-fifths came from institutional holders.

The buyers' name came as a relief to Mr James Carpenter, chairman of CI. "Before I knew who it was, I felt considerable apprehension," he confessed.

"Now I know I am really quite pleased that it wasn't someone more alarming." The two groups already know each other slightly, and the Hongkong company described its stake in CI as "a long term investment."

Mr Anthony Yeh, its managing director, flies over to visit CI in about 10 days time.

CI has had a history of erratic and often declining profits since 1974. Its ventures into Australia and New Zealand backfired until the latter part of 1979. Prospects there are now said to be "encouraging".

Sadly, this improvement has come as the important British and North American markets are experiencing a downturn and tough competition from cheap imports.

CI's 1979 profits fell £2.4m to £2.02m and in Britain "the picture is not encouraging". Mr Carpenter added wryly that the Hongkong company "does not know what our figures are like".

Hong Kong Carpet Manufacturers, chaired by Sir Lawrence Kadoorie, is a major manufacturer of machine and hand-woven carpets in the Far East. Last year it set up a French marketing subsidiary, and also sells in the United States.

In Hongkong it became a 50 per cent associate of Antler International, making antiques. Until yesterday, it had no significant British interests. Directors control 34.5 per cent of the equity.

Traditional reports 'on the way out'

By Roman Eisenstein

Traditional company annual reports are on the way out, according to Mr William Kanaga, chairman of the international accounting firm Arthur Young.

He told guests at the Arthur Young Professors' Roundtable yesterday that the increasingly diverse interests of those who sought financial and other information would require more and more companies to publish a variety of annual reports.

Mr Kanaga predicted that his future most governments would increase the extent of their involvement in accounting matters.

He said that the attitude of the Japanese and German governments was "a far cry from the antagonism so pervasive in my own government. It's abundantly clear to those of us in the United States accounting profession," he said, "that we have a real job on our hands in the decade of the 80s to invent and reverse the current trend" on government intervention.

For most of those which are fully owned by the major banks such as Forward Trust, it has been a foregone conclusion that the decision will have come as a bitter disappointment to finance houses such as UDT which had been hoping for full status.

This would have enabled them to get deposits at slightly better rates of interest, and for some of them it would have permitted expansion in other fields.

Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, hinted in a speech on Tuesday that such a decision might be in the offing. He tried to sugar the pill by saying that different status meant different functions rather than lover recognition.

Finance houses lose fight

By Roman Eisenstein

Finance houses have lost their fight for full banking status. They have been relegated to the second tier of deposit taking institutions set up under the Banking Act.

The Bank of England, which published a three-tier list of fully recognized banks, deposit-taking institutions and companies still awaiting a decision about their status on April 2, yesterday published a further list to its original one.

This list shows that most of the larger finance houses which had initially been placed among companies awaiting a decision on their status are now classified as deposit-taking institutions. These include UDT, Lloyds and Scottish and Mercantile Credit, and Lombard North

Polymark expansion

Polymark International, the London-based company with interests in textiles, agricultural products, light engineering and sports goods, announced yesterday a £14m expansion of its Irish label factory. The move will increase the staff at the factory in Trim, County Meath, from 90 to 190.

Steel legislation

Legislation for a reconstruction of the British Steel Corporation's balance sheet is to be introduced in the next Parliamentary session. Mr Adam Butler, Minister for Industry said yesterday. The move has long been urged by the steel industry unions and management.

THOMAS MARSHALL & CO. (LOXLEY) LTD.

(Manufacturers of Carbon, Fireclay and Heat Insulating Refractories)

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd May in Sheffield. Mr W. T. Hale, B.Sc. (the Chairman) presiding. The following are extracts from his circulated statement.

It is disappointing to have to report a decrease in profits to £474,349 from last year's record of £1,157,653. Turnover of £17,274,503 compared with £16,368,334 and after tax and extraordinary items the profit becomes £410,914 (£862,761).

Your board recommends a final dividend of 1.576p making 2.776p for the year (same) and is adequately covered.

Your company is essentially a manufacturing company supplying refractories to the iron and steel and other energy using industries throughout the world.

Kilning is an essential part of our manufacturing process and we consume substantial quantities of fuel. In October we suffered a 38.5% increase in gas costs, to recover which would require a 6.5% price increase on our bulk product. It is difficult for companies like ours to see any benefit in the existence of North Sea oil when we pay more for our fuel than our overseas competitors and face the difficulties of competing abroad against the background of sterling's highly valued because of that oil.

The net result is that orders are taken at unsatisfactory prices or are lost to those countries where our competitors are less affected by inflation and currency problems and use a cheaper fuel. Having built up our exports to over 50% we are particularly vulnerable to this problem.

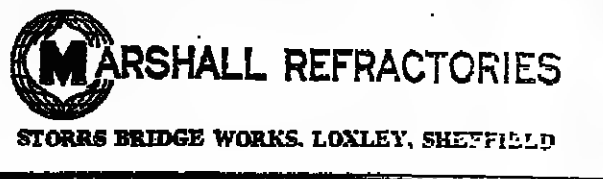
Carbox Limited, dependent upon capital spending and major maintenance in the iron industry, quickly felt the world recession and appreciable redundancies were necessary. Now, albeit at a lower production level, there is an improved order book.

Heyland Marshall Limited continues to extend its activities with new products and new markets. Heyland Alloys and Minerals Limited. Progress in merchandising is proceeding slowly.

Marshall Refractories Limited. This company was most affected by the transport strike, secondary picketing and atrocious weather conditions in the early part of 1979, and did well to recover in the second half of the year. It is also most affected by the steel strike in 1980. Exports have continued at a high level but this has not prevented extensive short-time working.

Moler Products Limited. With increasing need for fuel conservation, demand for insulating refractories will increase. The company is ready to satisfy the potential requirements of the cement, glass and heavy clay industries, and other industries not previously serviced.

Whilst 1980 has begun badly because of the steel strike the co-operative effort of all employees will see us through this difficult period. Our export efforts will be maintained and if the Government is successful in reducing inflation and lowering interest rates, we may yet be able to live with high fuel costs and a strong pound.



STORRS BRIDGE WORKS, LOXLEY, SHEFFIELD

PRICE CHANGES

74p to 224p	Anglo Amer	5p to 58p
13p to 34p	De Beers DM	10p to 244p
15p to 72p	CRN	10p to 244p
5p to 80p	Imp Chem Ind	10p to 364p
5p to 155p	Imp Cont Gas	10p to 650p

12p to 763p	Lasmo	10p to 638p
16p to 25p	Letraset	8p to 115p
4p to 45p	Messing-Forg	10p to 350p
15p to 73p	Tube Invest	10p to 255p
7p to 265p	Whesoe	5p to 51p

THE POUND

Bank	buys	Bank	buys
2.11	2.04	Norway Kr	11.78
31.00	28.25	Portugal Esc	115.00
70.25	66.75	South Africa Rd	2.17
2.75	2.66	Spain Ptas	167.50
13.37	12.83	Sweden Kr	10.06
8.95	8.55	Switzerland Fr	4.02
9.95	9.55	USA \$	2.38
4.32	4.10	Yugoslavia Dnr	50.00
100.50	95.50		
11.75	11.30		
1.14	1.10		
2010.00	1910.00		
659.00	625.00		
Gld 4.73	4.50		

US lending rates ease further

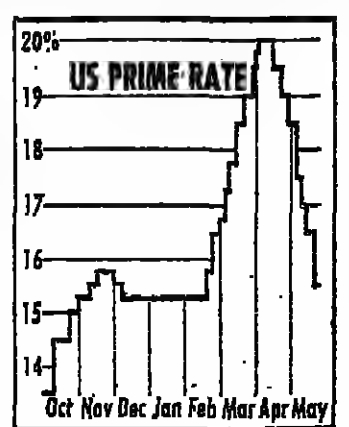
From Frank Vogl
Washington, May 22

The Chase Manhattan Bank and Bankers Trust of New York both cut their prime lending rates to 15 1/2 per cent from 16 1/2 per cent today.

The rate has fallen sharply since it reached a record 20 per cent in early April and there are clear indications of further rate reductions soon.

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, which only yesterday cut the rate it charges stock brokers from 15 1/2 per cent to 14 1/2 per cent, today cut the rate again to take it to 13 1/2 per cent.

With Treasury bills trading a fraction above 8 per cent, the disparity between most short-term money rates and the prime and the broker loan rates is



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

now exceptionally great.



China and Indonesia to exchange oil and fuels

China is expected to begin buying crude oil from Indonesia, and Indonesia will probably import diesel fuel, petrol and much needed kerosene from China.

The initiative is understood to have come from Peking although negotiations are still in the preliminary stage. Despite Indonesia's continuing reluctance to restore diplomatic relations with Peking, it wants new markets for its crude oil.

Pertamina, Indonesia's national oil corporation, has suffered from declining exports to Japan and the United States recently and is seeking new outlets in Taiwan, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Iran break from dollar

Iran formally broke the link between the rial and the dollar today and set the rial at 92.3 against the IMF's Special Drawing Right, weakening the rial against the dollar to 70.50/70.75 from the fixed 70.35/70.60.

Japan's oil imports fall

Japan imported 22,035 million kilolitres of crude oil in April, down 12.5 per cent from the preceding month and 5.9 per cent from a year before. Saudi Arabia was the largest supplier.

Vehicle output up

West German vehicle production rose to 371,100 in April, from 367,999 in March and 367,096 in April, 1979. But in the first four months of 1980 car production fell 6 per cent.

Steel production drops

Crude steel output in countries reporting to the International Iron and Steel Institute fell 1.5 per cent year-on-year to 40.52 million tonnes in April from 41.14 million in the same month a year ago.

Volvo lays off 6,000

Volvo Motor Company will lay off indefinitely 6,000 at its Gothenburg plant, next Tuesday because of a dock strike which has brought shipping to a standstill.

Call for increased efficiency combined with wider use of coal

BP chief urges global energy plan

Governments must confer to set up an effective energy policy which could accommodate a world economic growth of 3 per cent in the next 20 years, according to Mr Christopher Laidlaw, British Petroleum's deputy chairman.

That growth would depend on the correct balance being achieved between demand, supply and price of energy resources and on using coal to a far greater degree.

If there were no improvements in energy efficiency, requirements for the non-communist world by the year 2000 would approach 10,000 million tons of oil equivalent, said Mr Laidlaw, addressing the second European oil and gas conference in Amsterdam yesterday.

Oil would not be able to provide more than 25 per cent of that demand. He doubted whether 8,000 million tons was a realistic target and even that would require a demonstrable increase in the efficient use of energy.

Governments, in formulating a successful energy policy, must address themselves to doubling coal output to a level approaching that of oil, embark on a nuclear investment programme and tailor their conservation to reach a target of 20 per cent before the end of the century, he said.

"It is worrying that so much of what is needed depends on governments, and that in Europe governments are divided



Mr Christopher Laidlaw, concerned that European governments are divided in their energy aims.

in their individual energy aims", Mr Laidlaw added.

"It is for them to create a fiscal climate that encourages energy development and to look more at how profits are used and less at how to take them away."

The year 2000 would be critical. Present estimates indicated that conventional crude output in the non-communist world, currently just over 50 million barrels a day, could reach 55 million barrels per day by 1990. Thereafter, production would begin to decline and would be back to its present level by the year 2000.

According to Mr Laidlaw, by that time coal would become a resource whose

potential expansion was far in excess of oil.

"Coal must have a great future. If by the year 2000, governments and industry can between them create the facilities to quadruple the international trade in coal... and in addition we make some allowances for new applications, at least 25 per cent of our total energy needs could then come from coal."

The BP chairman was in no doubt that any energy policy for the future had to incorporate investment in new technologies for the development of resources. He illustrated the point by focusing on the savings to be made in the car.

"The small diesel engine", so far the power unit for only a small fraction of Europe's car population, should have little difficulty in showing a 30 per cent reduction in the fuel required for the personal mobility we all cherish", he said.

Nuclear energy would play an important role in any strategy. "We must learn to accept that if we refuse all such risks rather than working to reduce them, we cannot avoid a reduction in our living standards and job prospects."

A successful global energy strategy could allow natural gas production to rise to 1,500 million tons of oil equivalent a year and nuclear to 1,200 million tons of oil equivalent.

Bill Johnstone

Leading banker to be chairman of BNOC

By David Hawson

The chairman of the City merchant bank, Mr Philip Shelbourne, Samuel Montagu, will become chairman of the British National Oil Corporation on July 1. He has accepted a five-year contract at an initial salary of £53,500.

Mr Shelbourne takes over from Mr Ronald Unger who is returning to a career in the City. He has intended to settle into the job before making any pronouncement about the future of BNOC. His starting salary has been agreed under the terms of the Boyle report.

The state-owned company's future is the source of considerable speculation within the City. The Government plans to BNOC during the next session of Parliament, possibly by retaining public ownership of the company as a whole but forming a small private operating company.

"As the new chairman, I would like some time to think about the consideration involved in the future of the corporation," Mr Shelbourne said. "I think it would be premature."

Mr Shelbourne envisaged that a decision on the future of BNOC would be announced this year, but not in the next few months.

BNOC was set up in 1976 by the then Labour Govern-

ment and last year reported a profit of £75m. However, its automatic state role in private industry made it a prime target for attention by the Conservative Government. The company has the right to buy, at market price, 51 per cent of all crude output from the North Sea.

Mr Shelbourne is 55 and trained as a taxation lawyer, a background which will stand him in good stead in dealing with the large oil companies over the exploitation of the North Sea fields.

He has been chairman of Samuel Montagu since 1974, and will remain a non-executive director of the bank after his move to BNOC. He was a leading figure at the bank before his appointment as chairman after it was taken over by the Midland Bank.

As one of the leading City merchant bankers, Mr Shelbourne may be expected to play a guiding role in the change in BNOC's operations during the next year.

One significant point made about his appointment in the City is that it may prove that the Government retains an open mind about the way BNOC may be opened up to private capital. Mr Shelbourne would not be expected to take the job if the key decisions about BNOC's future had been made in advance.

£46m manufacturing investment by Co-op

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Co-operative Wholesale Society, the company which provides goods and services for Britain's many Co-operative retail outlets has revealed its capital expenditure details for the first time.

The society, whose sales total £1,700m a year disclosed a huge commitment to renew its manufacturing facilities.

Sir Arthur Sugden, who retires later this year as chief executive of CWS, said that while the society existed to service nearly 200 Co-op retail societies it now plans to compete more in the open market place.

CWS, which makes or packages a wide range of goods from food and footwear to furniture and fashionwear, already supplies some goods to retailers outside the movement.

This trend in the society's growth, with the prospect of expansion in manufacturing, comes after a year in which its £1,191m food sales—represent two-thirds of turnover—showed only a 5.7 per cent rise in value and a reduced profit of £12.3m, down £1m on the previous year.

Total CWS trading profit was £18m in 1979, the same level

as in 1978, despite an 8 per cent rise in turnover. Sir Arthur described the overall results as "far from unsatisfactory—and indeed better than expected."

About £46m, well over half the society's total capital spending of £81m in the last three years, has been spent on manufacturing investment, and of last year's capital outlay of £34m, manufacturing absorbed nearly two-thirds of the total.

Men'swear manufacturing showed heavy losses, except at one shirt factory, and three units were closed in the latter part of the year.

However, its newly-merged travel and books group went from loss to profit and there were generally better results in non-foods.

CWS's other capital expenditure in the past three years included nearly £10m on its retailing activities, mainly in Scotland. A further £4.5m will be spent on retailing development this year, including a new superstore at Mayhill in Glasgow.

Another £11.2m has been spent, largely in the last two years, on a new system of regional warehouses which service the Co-ops. Another £6.3m is expected to be spent on warehousing this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing sector's share of scarce funds

From Mr John M. Bower

Sir, You are to be congratulated on the timely nature of the article by David Blake (May 19). The present high interest rates are now a frequent feature in company reports. Yet we continue to subsidise competition for those scarce funds by the housing sector funds by the housing sector. The mechanics of the operation are simple and it only requires the political will to make the necessary change. I make no apologies to Sir Geoffrey Howe for this early opening of the 1981 budget baiting season.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. BOWER,
Rushmore,
15 Norton Road,
Norton,
Scourbridge,
West Midlands, DY8 2AG.
May 19.

Accountability of the water authorities

From Mr P. A. H. Bailey

Sir, Referral of more water authorities to the Monopolies Commission (Business News report, May 16) is to be applauded, but is no absolute answer to the problems arising from the growth of these bodies, which themselves have been called "near monopolies."

Their accountability—to the public—is highly questionable, but this can easily and cheaply be improved by members being directly elected (as are European Parliament members) at the same time as district councillors. The present system of a majority of members being appointed by the councils has clearly proved unsatisfactory.

To keep charges at a reasonable level, a first and, again simple, step would be for the secretary of state to initiate a moratorium on further implementation of Section 30 of the

limited to standard rate and paid directly to the societies who would charge at the net rate only to the mortgage holders. This would have the added attraction of redistributing to the low income mortgagees the excessive benefits received by high income mortgagees through the present arrangements for interest relief.

The mechanics of the operation are simple and it only requires the political will to make the necessary change. I make no apologies to Sir Geoffrey Howe for this early opening of the 1981 budget baiting season.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. BOWER,
Rushmore,
15 Norton Road,
Norton,
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West Midlands, DY8 2AG.
May 19.

Increased coal output and productivity

From the chairman of the National Coal Board

Sir, While the overall quarterly figures for industrial activity for the first three months of 1980 show an extremely depressing picture as indicated in your report (May 20), I must point out that the oil and gas industries were not the only major industrial sectors to increase output during that period.

Total coal production for January-March 1980 was 8.7

per cent higher than for January-March 1979 (after adjustment for the different incidence of holidays) and deep-mining overall productivity was 4.8 per cent higher than for the corresponding quarter of 1979. Results for the period since the beginning of April have also been encouraging; output has been nearly 6 per cent higher, production productivity about 6 per cent higher and overall productivity 2.3 per cent higher than for the

first six weeks of financial year. The mining industry, committed to a expansion to meet an share of energy req in view of likely difficulties in t of oil.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA,
National Coal Board,
Robert House,
Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 7AE.
May 20.

Chance that must not be missed

From Mr Anthony St. John

Sir, When the Liverpool Council meet the Ch this Friday to discuss enterprise zones, let me do not throw a penny of the greatest opportunity for Merseyside this which could bring prosperity to the city, job opportunities.

The Chancellor's Budget announcement offered a prize zones to select areas which would provide incentives to business enterprise and administrative interface.

How could Liverpool possibly reject a proposal? Perhaps losing control as to what would go on in t or are concerned that not receive increase directly from the devt. Certainly, the planne like losing their pen this is necessary if pri-ise is to have a cha-

With an unemployment of over twice the average; a population of 22 per cent over the la and over 12,000 acres of land within the city of Liverpool cannot afford to miss out on this opportunity which can new money and new enlarging the city's base. Considering the rise of 50 per cent domestic and common this year, as voted by then Labour council, a disastrous effect on businesses, evidenced increasing number of offices for sale in t city.

Could it be that t pool Council have a fatalistic approach written off the inner designated shanty to increase the city's derelict buildings? ANTHONY STEEN,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

This is the recession . . .

A United States, evidence of a more recession than originally expected to mount at home as well. The steel strike are still distorting the economic indicators such as the figures for capital expenditure and manufacturers' stocks in quarter.

of the 3 per cent fall in capital may well have been the result of dispute but all the same the figures to corroborate the earlier industrial statistics that manufacturing investment heading downwards. And those who had been looking for a drop to herald the real recession were yesterday with a £570m fall, £370m was in manufacturing.

was also a spate of warnings from the corporate sector that profits will fall in the current year. In GKN, Delta and Simon all con- the level of United Kingdom was slackening; Cadbury Schweppes ms to be finding the going tougher some market despite the buoyancy of r spending in the opening quarter 'ear.

equity market, however, is still g to take the adverse news in its rith the "more difficult" trading ns ICI talked about the main factor the 5.1 points fall in the FT-index

he moment the sort of liquidity that brought British industry to its seems unlikely to be repeated with as cutting back on employment and gorously. And there is always the falling interest rates, albeit likely shed further back perhaps to late because of the Government's stand ary policy.

and off

course, has been signalling recession ths. But first firm indications of its were none the less painful for all shares fell 10p to 364p

t, first-quarter profits of £152m— ove those of the corresponding three months—were well up to ions and roughly in line with the g two quarters. But selling price were responsible for a £48m sales e the preceding quarter to £1,523m il volume slipped by a percentage

mult truth is that since March has shown signs of falling sharply oft margins are narrowing as prices plastics, petro-chemicals and the ong-suffering fibres division.

a not yet ascertained how much of ure is due to heavy destocking but p is not disguising the fact that it heading into a prolonged period of ing demand.

is left leaning heavily on its 18 per an stake as it runs into the reces- rying the severe handicap of its strength. Ninian helped lift oil to 26m in the first quarter and downgrading of production fore- ud push them to £10m this year aps £150m next year.

could slide to perhaps £520m, this year before recovering a shade r and just possibly leaping ahead. At least this is not such a bleak as that held out by some of ICI's ternational rivals, who lack the oil

standing the prospect of dour e the next two quarters the shares, a likely fully-taxed p/e ratio of 8, spective yield of just under 10 per ing a one-tenth increase, may not ch further to fall. The market art looking to better times ahead he summer is out.

Ullmann

of a sac

posed takeover of Keyser Ullmann rterhouse Group makes sense. The day should produce a joint group hly & Keyser and Charterhouse, achieved by one-for-one share deal, r is losing its name and is giving ke slice of its assets and potential by way of some £50m of tax losses, getting out of a cut-de-sac. Charter-

house is gaining in terms of assets, but is in effect giving up some of the potential of its strong cash flow from a 2.3 per cent stake in the Thistle field in the North Sea and other interesting North Sea possibilities where it employs 17 per cent of its assets.

Last year its revenue from the Thistle field was £3.4m. Some estimates for this year place the potential at £11m to run for many years to come. So, although the value of each Keyser share is around 90p before even adding the potential from tax losses as compared to some 72p for each Charterhouse share, the advantage is by no means one way only.

The £45m from Keyser added to the £15m of assets—before adding inner reserves— at Charterhouse Japhet, the banking subsidiary, will immediately create a banking group capable of sustaining a balance sheet total of £300m. Then there is the addition of the Keyser tax losses which in a few years could almost double that.

Hill Samuel

Just an idea . . .

Both Hill Samuel and Merrill Lynch spent yesterday pouring cold water on the idea that they may merge. But they did talk—or at least Merrill Lynch's new top recruit Mr David Montagu put up the idea to Hill Samuel who apparently "did not respond positively", and it was dropped.

It is interesting nevertheless that Merrill Lynch should consider the idea worth discussing at all. Merchant banks have reached an important crossroads. They are neither large enough to compete effectively for banking business with the big general international banks, nor is it obvious how they can diversify their service function although the idea of going into securities dealing (possible if The Stock Exchange loses its forthcoming Restrictive Practices Court battle with the Office of Fair Trading) is one that many find attractive. Mr Montagu, of course, knows the merchant banking business well—he is a previous chairman of Samuel Montagu—and he knows that Hill Samuel has long held ambitions to break away from a traditional merchant banking role. Indeed it has demonstrated as much by its attempts in the past first to merge with MEPC and later with Slater, Walker.

It was reasonable then for Merrill Lynch to have thought that the Grand Design of a merger between itself, the world's largest broking house, and a large investment bank was both sensible and likely to appeal to Hill Samuel.

It is precisely this sort of amalgamation—or perhaps one between a big British and an American broking house which many people expect might follow immediately if the Stock Exchange cartel is broken. Wise houses are making their plans now. Merrill Lynch plus Hill Samuel may come to be seen as a good idea.

Boots

One to hold

Boots forecast an increase in profits for the year at the interim stage, and has duly produced it, with a 7.3 per cent increase to £121.3m pre-tax on the back of a 14.2 per cent increase in turnover to £1,202m. The improvement—after a small setback in the first half—reflects a strong performance in the second six months in comparison with a period when profits growth was affected by the road haulage dispute and severe weather in the United Kingdom. However, the market wasn't disposed to look gift horses in the mouth yesterday, and the shares rose 3p to 90p.

There are no signs yet of a fall-off in United Kingdom retail sales (up by 14 per cent in money terms, and by about five per cent in real terms, last year), but with 62 per cent of United Kingdom retail turnover relating to non-medical items, Boots is unlikely to be totally immune to the recession.

However, notwithstanding the problems caused by the strength of sterling (which knocked £3.9m off profits above the line last year), the pharmaceutical side seems set for a more buoyant period, particularly as Froben is selling well in the important Japanese market. The shares may not perform in the short term, but they are a solid hold. The 5.3 per cent yield is almost twice covered even by CCA profits on a fully-taxed basis.

Technology

Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, with next week visit California's "Silicon Valley". His discussion there could well prove to be the watershed for the National Enterprise Board's semi-conductor company, Immos.

Five months have elapsed since the new NEB board under its chairman, Sir Arthur Knight, approved the recommendation of its predecessors that Immos should be granted a second tranche of £25m to further the development of a United Kingdom presence in advanced micro-electronics.

Sir Keith's delay in endorsing that recommendation has produced deep anxiety and doubt among those involved in the Immos venture and has also raised the general principle of whether the Government and Sir Keith in particular mean what they say about the NEB's catalytic role in promoting high technology industries in this country.

A strong opponent of the Immos venture while Opposition spokesman on industry, Sir Keith appears since to have modified his views. But he is still prevaricating, doubtless troubled about how he can reconcile further backing for such a very promising Government—strong commitment to non-intervention in industry. Almost two years ago Sir Keith, in a letter to Mr Eric Varley, former Industry Secretary, said that the Government "Some people fear that the £30m-£50m the NEB is believed to be putting up for this venture will simply be the first

instalment in a costly failure. As you will know, for standard chips the development costs are high and for companies that fail to achieve high volume, the losses, which in this case would fall on the taxpayer, are large."

His first stop in Silicon Valley will be SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute), where he will be briefed on micro-electronics and bio-technology.

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The expected announcement today of the takeover of Keyser Ullmann by the Charterhouse Group will bring to a fitting and widely expected end one of the more colourful episodes of recent City history.

The Charterhouse bid is in fact the latest in a recent spate of City moves involving merchant banks and financial intermediaries, such as brokers and jobbers, which could transform the financial scene over the next few years.

In the past few weeks Antony Gibbs, a member of the Accepting Houses Committee, the inner ring of merchant banks has been taken over by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Singer & Friedlander, another Accepting House, will be sold off after the takeover of its parent company C. T. Bowring by Marsh & McLennan, the giant American insurance broking group.

Hill Samuel, one of the largest of Accepting Houses, has had takeover talks with Merrill Lynch, the world's largest investment broking company. Even though it now looks as if this particular merger will not take place, the fact that such exploratory talks occurred is evidence of the turmoil into which international banking and finance is being thrown. There are many elements at work undermining traditional structures.

The fact is that entry into the European Community, the introduction of negotiated commission in the United States and intense competition have all contributed to the feeling that financial services companies which manage to adapt to new conditions will in the end do better than ever, but that there will be many that will simply fold on the way.

Inmos: when will Sir Keith make up his mind?



Dr Richard Petritz, head of Immos (US) and joint founder of the company.

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economy, and even her social vitality could be seriously impaired.

It continued: "A great deal of the current debate has the tone of resistance—as if resistance was constructive. It is time for the analytic foundation of the United Kingdom's debate to shift from the issue of whether or not to proceed to a focus on how best to move ahead."

Specifically, the SRI report highlighted the scale of the involvement: "Success dictates commitment to long-range plans requiring relatively high near-term capital investments and recognition of risks".

Successful pursuit of world markets, it emphasized, would improve the United Kingdom's economic exploitation of micro-electronics technology. This squares very much with the main thrust of the Government's industrial policy aimed at stimulating innovative enterprise and commercial risk.

Sir Keith's dilemma is a painful one; the Immos venture is clearly a case of the right technology in the right place at the right time. All of which should commend it to the Government—but it needs large amounts of public money which is anathema to the Government and particularly to the Secretary of State for Industry.

A recent development which has contributed to the delay in making a decision on Immos has been GEC's Sir Arnold Weinstock's interest in acquiring part or all of Immos. Shortly after Immos was

launched by the NEB in the spring of 1974, GEC revealed that in an about-turn of its business philosophy it was joining with the American Fairchild Corporation in a joint semi-conductor venture in the United Kingdom. Since then Fairchild has been acquired by France's Schlumberger group and the project appears to be in doubt, despite the fact that work on the production facility is well advanced in Cheshire.

GEC sought detailed information on the Immos project and on the basis of the answers supplied by the NEB has apparently decided that it is no longer interested. But the precise status of GEC's possible involvement remains far from clear. For earlier this week Mr Ian Halliday, chief executive of the NEB, insisted that discussions were still continuing.

AGEC solution to the Immos problem would, of course, neatly unhook Sir Keith from the horns of his dilemma.

Mr Halliday's declaration was made during a presentation to MPs by Dr Richard Petritz, head of the Immos United States operation and one of the company's three founders. Urging a prompt decision on the further tranche of NEB cash, Dr Petritz listed the benefits of Immos to the United Kingdom. It would, he said, provide a domestic semiconductor resource, achieve important technology transfer and establish a high value industry for a minimal investment of £50m. It would also

create more than 3,000 jobs, by 1984 (with more to follow) and make a contribution to net exports of £95m a year by 1984.

In each stage of semi-conductor technology, he said, different companies had gained a clear lead. Fairchild had been the leader in discrete components, Texas Instruments in the first generation of integrated circuits and Intel in large scale integration (LSI). The next stage was that of very large scale integration (VLSI) and, said Dr Petritz, "It is our very definite goal to make Immos number one in VLSI".

Arguments over the decision whether Immos should get its money have been clouded by political and regional fighting over where the manufacturing plant should be sited. Immos has chosen Bristol although assisted areas have lodged strong counter claims.

But much more important is the basic question of whether Britain should step into or remain outside the mass micro-circuit business where other countries, notably the United States and Japan, have a strong lead.

It really amounts to taking a decision—now long overdue—on whether Britain establishes its own domestic industry or relies totally on foreign suppliers. Sir Keith's American tour should help him make up his mind.

Kenneth Owen and Peter Hill

Another sign of change in the city

Roman Eisenstein discusses the background to the Charterhouse Keyser bid

wholesale market where depositors are other banks and large companies. When interest rates are high, they are squeezed because they pay interest on virtually all deposits. Over the past few years, as banking statistics show, merchant banks have been losing ground to the bigger clearers.

Squeezed on banking, merchant banks fared little better on their services. With the industrial decline there have been fewer opportunities for fees from corporate advice. With strong foreign banks muscling in on the Euro-markets business—pioneered in London largely by S. G. Warburg and N. M. Rothschild—the share held by British banks declined. And, with shares failing to keep pace with inflation, investment advice has not been as good a business as previously.

So the gloom has worn off. Ironically, this is happening at a time when the banks seem to be pulling themselves up by their bootstraps. Some, such as Hill Samuel, have gone for size through mergers, others such as Warburg, Arbuthnot Latham,

Gibbs or Samuel Montagu have either acquired new partners or been taken over by larger and well capitalised groups. Almost all have been expanding overseas.

In fact, with the probable fall in interest rates, North Sea oil and the abolition of exchange controls the outlook is quite bright.

This is the background in which the takeover of Keyser Ullmann by the Charterhouse Group is taking place. Keyser Ullmann was one of the prime victims of the fringe banking crisis during which it found itself in the Bank of England "Lifeboat", along with some highly exotic financial groups, including fringe banks, property groups and other less well defined entities.

Keyser's predicament followed a takeover binge which took it from a small, well respected and old established merchant bank to a large, unwieldy bank cum property company. It was short on corporate clients and long on cash, bricks and mortar.

Keyser's banking past pedigree is anything but fringe. Its foundation dates back to the last century. In the late sixties until the crisis it was effectively run by two brothers-in-law, Mr Roland Franklin, son of the previous chairman, and Mr Ian Stouitzer, who had gone via the London School of Economics into banking after a promising career as a violinist. Mr Franklin is the man who gave Sir James Goldsmith timely loans and help when the fledgling Cavenham group

encountered stormy waters in the sixties. He also helped Mr Roland ("Tiny") Rowland of Ladbroke to beat off a challenge from the majority of his board.

Mr Stouitzer was behind the £176m merger in 1972 with Dalton Barron, a fringe bank and property group.

Dalton Barron was run by Mr Jack Delal and Mr Stanley van Gelder, who became respectively deputy chairman and managing director of Keyser. Mr Delal was a seasoned property speculator. Within a few weeks he involved Keyser in property loans and purchases which when the crisis struck, could not be unwound.

The group was left with £64m of losses, Mr Franklin, Mr Stouitzer, Mr Delal and Mr Gelder all had to resign and the Bank of England through the "Lifeboat" lent £65m and put in as chairman, Mr Derek Wilds, a deputy chairman from Barclays Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the 1922 Committee and of Keyser Ullmann, also resigned. Although Keyser has now restored its finances its City reputation had been permanently tarnished. Its takeover by someone was in the end inevitable.

Charterhouse, both a financial and an industrial holding group, which owns Charterhouse Japhet, an Accepting House, employs £105m of capital, of which £70m belongs to shareholders. Together with Keyser the joint group will be employing some £150m of capital, of which £50m will be used in the bank—four times the present size of Charterhouse Japhet. It will be one of the larger entities in the merchant banking field.

I.J. Dewhirst Holdings Limited Clothing Manufacturers Highlights from the statement by the Chairman, ALISTAIR J. DEWHIRST

- Profits**
 - * Group pre-tax profit of £1,667,772 — up 28%.
- Sales**
 - * Sales of £18,263,497 — up 20%.
- Dividend**
 - * Total Ordinary dividend for the year of 1.8p per share — representing a 53% increase.
- Share Issue**
 - * Proposed 1 for 3 scrip issue.
- Cash Deposits**
 - * Increased to £1.5m at year end.
- Production and Expansion**
 - * Further progress in development of leisurewear range.
 - * Three year major investment programme in new machinery costing over £3m completed during year.
- Prospects**
 - * Growth prospects in most products — particularly leisurewear facilitated by additional factory at Peterlee.
 - * Lack of Government and EEC action over dumping and quotas a serious problem for the industry. Inflation and sterling's inflated exchange rate also create difficulties.
 - * Your company is one of the strongest in clothing industry — well placed to hold its own in competitive conditions — and we should increase profits in first half year, and hope to make further progress in full year.

I.J. Dewhirst Holdings Limited, Duwear House, Westgate, Driffield, North Humberside, YO25 7TH.

Ross Davies

Business Diary: Call of the Wilde • A television turn-off

's bid for Keyser by Charterhouse marks important move of its management team to a group from a anonymous industrial company into a livelier nt and banking l.

Mobbs has been the active chairman for the r years and has been yst for changes already in by chief executive Rewett and by Wells, who heads the ouse Japhet merchant side.

is still only 43 and is better known under ary hat, both as chair-Slough Estates, which ed by his grandfather, rman of the British Federation, where he a long-standing critic ming constraints on l development.

non-executive director ys he will also be on ms with Keyser's chair- ck Wilde, who was in from the clearer, to er back on to an event at. Before that he the newspaper business al manager of The



"And if Lohro does get control of Harrod's from the Frasers we'll have the perfect excuse for moving down market and shopping for what we can afford in Oxford Street."

William Lister has some news and views for those who bought shares in Mothercare during last summer's blackout of commercial television, as well as for those advertisers who think that people prefer watching TV to almost anything. His message is: there is no baby boom on the way.

Lister is a research biologist at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Hammer-smith Hospital, London. He told me yesterday that he takes issue with fellow researchers, as well as the many women journalists, who rushed into print last year with predictions that the TV blackout would be followed nine months later by a big increase in births.

If you go forward 267 days,

the average period of gestation, from July 23, the first day of the "blackout" then, Lister says, you come to April 23. The register of births for that date is now available and, give or take a few days for delayed registrations, shows an increase over the same week of last year of 3.1 per cent. Yet for the first 17 weeks of this year, the increase was even higher, 3.6 per cent.

If anything, therefore, it can be argued that fewer babies were conceived during the blackout than before—not enough, Lister says, to be statistically significant.

He has some erudite ideas on why more people did not make fruitful love. I think they just switched over to BBC.

Surprise, surprise—an American restaurant in London that has neither fast food or even faster music on the menu. There is no hamburger or pizza either, but plenty of devilled crab and corned beef hash.

Surprise, for that is its name, opened off Regent Street this week and is the baby of a clutch of American businessmen outside catering who like Joe Wilkerson live here and have always wanted to run a restaurant.

Wilkerson, who I met there yesterday, is chairman of the advertising agency, Marsteller. He is also past-chairman of the International Wine and Food Society and is therefore the venture's wine man.

One surprise is that he is yet to straddle down an American wine that fits in with the restaurant's middle price, plate service ambience, but he is complementing the house wine with a second item that changes with whatever bargains are around.

Bob Cooper, the American operations manager, told me that to get American-style friendly service he is hiring only young non-waiters and then training them. The place is meant to be more of a foreign restaurant of interest to the locals, rather than an expatriate bolthole. It's stylish but not brash.

I think the place a find. In fact I am sorry I am writing this piece—I might be unable to get a table next time.



Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, has been recently deploying his talents as an after-dinner speaker to good effect.

Borrie, whose quips can be almost as sharp as his quiff and his style in dress, has been eating and talking his way through a full programme of engagements with carefully selected audiences of industrialists and company chairmen.

Some of the results have been interesting.

The complaints to the OFT from Argos and Tesco against a number of manufacturers who refused to supply them came about as a result of one of Borrie's post-prandial pep talks to retailers.

More recently, as a result of a similar meeting among clothiers in Leeds, the Office of Fair Trading is investigating the possibility of collusion between major manufacturers in fixing the price of thread.

INVESTORS CHRONICLE

The bad news...

Your regular copy of the Investors Chronicle has been missing in recent weeks. The reason is that we've been unable to publish because of the printing industry dispute (even though we were not a party to it).

The good news...

The Investors Chronicle will be back soon. And, if you're wondering what happened to all that detailed company analysis we've been unable to publish, here's the answer. When the Investors Chronicle returns, the first few issues will contain more information than ever, including every single company analysis you were unable to read when we were away. While our printers are out, we are working harder than ever updating analyses, writing features and piecing together all those sections which make the Investors Chronicle the single most important weekly journal of business, finance, investment and banking.

**INVESTORS
CHRONICLE**



The Lionel Corporation

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, United States of America.)

Shares of Common Stock (par value of \$0.10 each)

Authorised 10,000,000

Issued and Reserved for Issue
at 15th April 1980 6,550,936
(including 548,621 Shares reserved for issue)

The Company is engaged through its principal subsidiaries in the speciality retailing of toys and leisure products and the manufacture and sale of electronic components.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List the above Issued and Reserved Shares of Common Stock of \$0.10 par value. Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Xtel Statistical Services and copies of the statistical cards may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 6th June 1980 from:

N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS LIMITED
New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London EC4P 4DU.

ROWE & PITMAN
City-Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square,
London EC2A 1JA.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Prices jolted by talk of recession

The market was in a sombre mood yesterday, upset by statements from several leading companies indicating that the recession had arrived.

This prompted falls in most sectors, although the worst damage was seen in engineering following a bearish statement from the chairman of GKN. He told shareholders at the annual meeting that trading conditions had deteriorated considerably and interim profits were unlikely to match those for the corresponding period.

This sent a cold shiver running through most jobbers, who promptly marked the shares 14p lower at 244p. This in turn saw shares of Tubes tumble 10p, to 252p, in a market already nervous ahead of the first-quarter figures from ICI later in the day.

In the event, profits from ICI were roughly in line with most expectations. But it was the warning on margins which added to the worries of most City men and the shares retreated 10p to 364p, after holding their own ahead of the announcement.

With all three companies constituent members, the F.T. Index was bound to suffer and it did, falling 5.1 to 426.5. Nevertheless, jobbers remained fairly optimistic and were encouraged by the low level of selling, after taking into account the bad news ahead of the long weekend.

Dealers in gilts seemed anxious only to consolidate the gains achieved earlier in the week. This they did trading in

Rumours of a dry well sent shares of Carless Capel sliding 5p to 126p and Candecca 9p to 130p yesterday ahead of the drilling report. The talk in Hampshire suggests the well is anything but dry. The City's advice is to hold on to your hats while the report is finally published.

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on overnight levels, while in shorts, falls were limited to around 1/4.

Leading industrialists held their breath ahead of the ICI figures, with most relinquishing some ground afterwards. Glaxo remained unchanged at 136p, but Unilever at 421p, Beechams at 112p, and Pisons at 264p, all gave up between 2p and 3p.

Courtaulds, with figures due next week, slid 2p to 70p as profit taking by speculators cost Dunlop 3p to 70p.

But it was in engineering where most of the sad faces were to be seen. Lucas shed 9p to 208p, and Smiths Ind 5p to 208p, as a direct result of the statement from GKN Jobbers continued to mark prices lower in an attempt to avert panic selling with falls of 4p to 162p in Hawker Siddley, and a similar amount in Metal Box at 768p. A profits warning clinched 3 1/2p from Delta Metal at 531p.

But the major clearest experienced another dull day with Barclays up 2p to 420p, along with Nat West at 318p, while Midland at 331p, and Lloyds at 293p, closed unchanged.

Rowe & Pitman made a sortie into the market, up 29.9 per cent in Carpe for one of its clients—be to be Hongkong Carports price rose 7 1/2p to 28 1/2p. Mining Supply parted that R & P will completed its buying of in Laurence Scott at 60p and currently has 25.7 per London & European up 15 per cent of Newcomers in the market, the price of the latter up 45p.

Trading began in the Oakwood, closing at 83p—mum of 4p on the offer—after being 91p at one. The other newcomers bid Air Call, by 5p to 173p, Peerless by 4p to 101p.

A gloomy annual stat took its toll of Bordon, 2p to 57p, and the share a profits forecast wiped 8p. Letraset at 113p, figures continued to help. Britain & Hill 6p to 47p, wiped 2p from BOC Int at 4p, from Whitbread at 4p, from Avon Rob 115p.

Among companies rep disappointing figures in 51p from Brockhouse at 51p from Associated Eng at 50p, and 4p from Press at 26p.

In stores, the eagerly-a figures from Boots were with expectations, and shares rose 3p to 190p with Debenhams, up 1p following its better than for trading statement.

Motors came in for a right following adverse car with Harlow Perry 9p, 122p and Lax Services 2p at 76p.

Equity Turnover on M was 196,304m (12,671 bar Active shares yesterday, ing to the Exchange Tel were ICI, RIZ, Lasso, Britain Arrow, and Stracelyde, Associated I BSG Int, Boots, Bee Carports International, I GES and GKN.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Int of Fin	—	0.57(0.32)	0.45(0.40)	—	—	—
Allied Ldn Prop (I)	—	10.5(10.3)	6.9(7.4)	—	14/7	—(4.46)
Assoc Eng (I)	227.0(183.0)	1.63(1.3)	0.25(0.2)	—	—	—
Brockhouse (I)	36.9(36.4)	0.32(1.3)	0.25(6.89)	2.0(2.0)	31/7	—
Barilla Trust (I)	2.5(2.1)	0.21(0.01)	—	—	—	—
Borster & Sdn Sls (I)	—	2.8(2.0)	—	—	—	—
Boots (F)	202.1(163.3)	12.1(11.0)	22.5(21.6)	4.1(3.5)	17/7	7.0(6.0)
Capital Gearing (F)	0.08(0.02)	0.00(0.001)	0.1(0.1)	—	—	—
Concentric (I)	24.4(19.4)	1.2(1.0)	—	1.2(1.1)	1/7	—
Debenhams (F)	563.5(524.2)	11.5(10.7)	9.4(14.3)	4.3(2.7)	19/9	6.36(6.10)
Fidelity Radio (F)	5.8(19.8)	0.82(1.7)	7.1(19.2)	0.9(4.2)	11/7	3.66(5.66)
Hambros Int Trst (F)	—	2.3(1.8)	3.0(4.2)	3.7(1.2)	31/7	5.5(4.1)
Imp Chem Ind (Q)	1.523(1.185)	152.0(98.0)	16.0(11.5)	—	—	—
Leeds & Dist Dirs (I)	4.8(4.4)	0.37(0.4)	—	1.0(0.7)	1/7	—
Leys Foundries (I)	15.3(23.0)	0.16(0.23)	—	1.05(1.05)	1/7	—
Morland & Co (I)	—	0.62(0.30)	—	—	—	—
J. N. Nichols (F)	10.1(6.1)	1.8(1.2)	22.25(22.25)	—	—	—
W. Press (F)	227.0(218.0)	6.63(12.3)	3.78(5.29)	0.6(0.56)	8/9	1.2(1.0)
Pritchard Servs (F)	74.0(52.4)	2.41(2.37)	7.33(7.4)	1.45(1.01)	18/7	2.25(1.67)
Ptmb & Sd (F)	19.2(14.7)	3.39(2.88)	17.1(11.0)	2.25(2.20)	26/7	3.33(2.81)
Quest Automation (F)	7.5(5.0)	0.54(0.36)	8.66(5.44)	1.0(—)	—	—
Scott Europ Invest (F)	—	0.93(1.0)	—	1.25(—)	—	1.65(1.65)
Scott Int Trst (I)	—	—	—	1.7(1.25)	22/7	—
Sphere Invest Trst (F)	—	3.52(4.37)	3.40(—)	—	—	5.7(—)
Witan Invest (F)	—	3.76(5.9)	3.76(2.7)	2.0(1.45)	25/7	3.5(2.65)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = Before extraordinary items. † = loss.

Briefly

Thomas Tilling reports successful completion of proposed acquisition of Electric Supplies Distributing Company of San Diego of California. Consideration and satisfaction of later company loans amount to about \$21m.

Barton Transport: Turnover for 24 weeks to March 15, £2.56m (£2.19m). Pretax loss £125,000 (£101,000) including profit on sale of buses etc £138,711 (nil).

Waring-Maple: J. Henry Schroder Wagg announces that, in relation to acceptance of 7.133m ordinary shares received in connection with offers by Waring and Giltow for Maple, acceptance of the cash offer totalled 6.77m ordinary shares, and acceptance of shares and cash offer totalled 365,000 ordinary.

J. N. Nichols (Vintex): Dividend 20p (8.93p) for year to March 31. Turnover, £10.12m (£5.17m). Pre-tax profit, £1.80m (£1.27m). Eps 52.35p (£3.38p).

Leys Foundries and Engineering: Turnover for half year to March 31 £15.98m (£23.06m). Pretax profit £163,000 (loss £530,000). Interim 1.5p gross (same).

Automation & Technical Services (Holdings): stockbrokers Lawrence. Trust have placed 37 per cent of company's ordinary shares with institutions and individuals at £20 a share valuing company at £1.2m. The National Enterprise Board owns 30 per cent.

Borster and Southern Stockholders Trust: Total income for half-year to March 31, £2.85m (£2.01m). Earnings and interest £218,000 (£207,000). Nav 81.1p (86.5p).

Hambros Investment Trust: Dividend 7.87p gross (5.85p). Pretax revenue £2.340m (£1.841m). 5.51p (4.21p). Nav share-prior charges at market value—162.5p (173.0p).

Scottish European Investment: Dividend 2.26p (same). Gross revenue £932,00 (£1,072m). Nav per share 43.7p (57.8p).

Capital Gearing Trust: Gross revenue for year to April 5, £83,000 (£8,000). Pretax earnings £1,972 (£1,771). Eps 0.1p (same). Nav per share 40p (40.8p). No dividend (same).

Scottish Investment Trust: Interim 2.42p gross (£1.78p). Total for year forecast 6.14p. Net revenue for half year to April 30 £1,947m (£1,492m). Earnings for half year expected to show satisfactory advance on last year but not to same extent as that shown for first half. Nav per share 132p (128.2p at October 31, 1979).

Booker CoCenel has now completed sale to the Government of Zambia by its wholly-owned subsidiary Bookers (Zambia) of that cos 33 per cent shareholding in the Consumer Buying Corp of Zambia and 49 per cent shareholding in National Drug Co. Total proceeds of sale will amount to some £1.4m. These proceeds are expected to be reinvested in the United Kingdom by instalments over a period of 5 years.

Reed Steinhilber: (controlled by Steinhilber Holdings) has acquired Julian Gibbs Holdings involving a financial commitment of about £300,000.

Lake 1 Elliot has acquired net assets of Darenth Filtration for £700,000 in cash. Business is expected to make a contribution of some £250,000 to profits in a full year.

Morland and Co: Pretax profit for half-year to March 31, £25,000 (£305,500). Interim 1.42p (1.07p) gross.

Allied London Properties: Interim 0.54p gross (0.58p). Pretax profit for half year to December 31, £579,000 (£521,000). Rental income continues to expand and housing divisions making favourable progress despite adverse economic conditions. Board expects higher profit for full year.

Fidelity Radio's turnover edged forward from £23.06m to £23.44m in the year to March 31, but pre-tax profits were halved to £327,000, against £1.72m. Total gross payment held at 8.05p.

Newspaper group up 38pc at year end

Final quarter results from provincial newspaper group Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers reveal a slowing in the rate of profits growth to 32 per cent. This left full-year profits to March 29 ahead by 38 per cent at £3.99m before tax on an increase in sales from £14.7m to £19.3m.

Portsmouth and Sunderland has had the benefit of higher income on its healthy liquid assets while cover price increases and higher advertising rates have also contributed to the strong performance.

Under current cost accounting, pretax profits come out at £2.60m—an increase of 27 per cent on the previous year. After tax of £1.38m compared with £1.46m, this gives current cost earnings per share of 10.7p compared with 17.1p on an historic cost basis.

After a two-thirds increase in the interim dividend the final has been marginally raised to leave the total up by 15 per cent at 4.64p gross. Down 2p to 80p, the shares yield 5.8 per cent.

The group has written off £706,000 of goodwill which arose on the purchase of retail outlets. This accounted for the bulk of the £792,000 extraordinary deficit in the profit and loss account.

Saxon Oil to raise £15m

Saxon Oil, a new independent exploration company, is to raise up to £15m through a private placing of shares in order to participate in applications for the seventh round of North Sea licences.

The original sponsors, Clyde Petroleum and the Gartmore and Electra House Groups of investment trusts, will subscribe for half of the 15m partly paid shares to be issued at 100p. The minimum subscription will be 5p with the rest payable on call.

News of a £135,000 loss after tax from engineering group Brockhouse in the six months to March 31 sent the shares down 5 1/2p to 37p, despite a maintained interim dividend of 2.86p gross.

The overseas companies did better but the United Kingdom companies made a loss, because of near-doubled interest charges of £1.1m, £694,000 lost through the engineering and steel strikes

and increased costs. Consequently, group pre-tax profits fell by 76 per cent to £327,000 on maintained sales of £36.9m. Orders on hand are a tenth lower and intake slowing. The board say there is no chance of matching last year's performance.

Negotiations on escalation payments due from Iran continue.

By Catherine Gunn
Building maintenance and general cleaning group Pritchard Services paid the penalty of high gearing in 1979 when interest costs soared from £516,000 to £1,080m and knocked a 13 per cent operating profit increase in to a 6.3 per cent pretax decline. The £2.4m pretax figure was in line with expectations. Associate companies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia contributed £381,000.

The gross dividend for the year has risen just over a third to 3.21p, yielding 8.23 per cent at 39p. The current year is going well so far, and the Mr Peter Pritchard, the chairman, hopes to beat the 1978 record £2.51m pretax profits in 1980.

High interest costs in the United States meant that the 1978 acquisition there made a post-interest loss of £200,000. Before interest charges it was in profit. Pritchard now operates in some 15 countries.

The strong pound cost it around £100,000 in overseas profits last year—which were 32 per cent of the total before central expenses—and knocked £222,000 off the sterling value of overseas assets, shown as an extraordinary debit.

Call for European securities integration

By Rosemary Upmworth
European securities tries should be moving to greater integration as the foundations of the national stock market Nicholas Goodison, Chair the Stock Exchange, said yesterday.

Mr Goodison, who was in Athens at the London conference, said that there is an almost complete absence of formal between stock markets EEC, which might enable issues to be made interally. "I say almost seven years ago all the existing stock exchange Britain and the Republic lend amalgamated into a exchange."

Although in almost country there are which attract investment non-residents, in real London and Amsterdam claim to being intern equity markets, he point.

He dismissed the pos of equity and debt market helping outside office exchanges as it would f markets, make it more d for the ordinary invest make regulation more problem.

Another possibility creation of an inter securities market in London will maintain current lead and emerge nucleus of the European market.

"The possibility is a one and if commercial and competition lead direction it could prove realized without us national sensibilities in countries", he said.

The Beauford Group

Turnover again a Record

RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED		1979	19
31st DECEMBER		£	£
Turnover	5,938,040	4,860	
Profit before tax	554,704	580	
Profit after tax	352,709	580	
Earnings per share	10.9p		
Dividends per share	4.15p		

From the statement by the Chairman, Mr. G. Crawford:
Turnover increased by 22%, and again constituting record for the Group.

Pre-tax profits of £593,181 (including surplus on of property) compare with last year's figure of £587. In considering this result, two factors should be born mind: firstly, the national engineering dispute cost us de and secondly, we absorbed, during the year, substantial in setting up our U.S. operation for which we have hopes, although we expect little benefit before 1981.

The year under review has seen further investment plant and machinery amounting to £720,000.

THE BEAUFORD GROUP LIMITED
CLECKHEATON, WEST YORKSHIRE BD19 3HY

FINANCIAL NEWS

Division of costs
William

SS

sel Prest
m Press, the engineer-
accused by the
Revenue of evading
ayments, has made an
iny provision of £2m
losing its case. As a
79 after-tax profits fell
n from £6.72m. Pre-tax
were £5.63m against

company says that most
tax profit decline was
much tougher trading
as turnover rose from
£227m. But William
optimistic that inter-
demand from energy
industries, not least in
will revive demand.

consequence, the com-
not running down its
force, and simultane-
trying to cut costs and
business. A company
in was unable to
however, what that new
might be.

ex profits were helped
ch reduced tax charge
a against £5.57m. The
mainly came from
of accelerated capital
is, not provided as
tax, and from £1.09m
anent stock apprecia-
tion from deferred tax.
tax charge has been
£788,000 in deferred
liabilities, not counted
tax.

company says that
the second half were
affected by the strong
national industrial dis-
and exchange move-
lut no provision was
against the ill-fated
contract which last year
£888,000 to be set

as per share were
applied to 3.7p instead
But a final dividend
gross brought the full
year to 1.7p, com-
1.48p in 1978.

Sales for half-year to
up from £19.45m to
£20.45m, with profits
from £1.28m to £1.45m
and from 1.57p to 1.72p
and expects second-half
to be materially dif-
ferent.

up

Call

Public Sector

Borrowing

Requirement

are figures released by

the Government borrowing

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Debenhams maintains final
as trading profits plunge

By Peter Wainwright

Debenhams has maintained its
final dividend at 6.18p gross,
an increase for the year of 3
per cent to 9.1p. The company
owns about 70 department
stores besides H and M Rayne
and Lotus in shoes and a num-
ber of shops periodically sub-
ject to bid rumours.

Yesterday's preliminary state-
ment suggested that the worst
may be almost over, apart from
a rather tough time in the first
six months of the current year.

In the 53 weeks to February 12,
sales rose by less than 12
per cent, and less than infla-
tion, to £585.5m, but trading
profits after cost of finance
plunged from £20.7m to £11.5m.

However, Debenhams is at
pains to show that the profits
fall should not be seen this way.

In fact, the group provides
three ways to look at it. First,
the businesses it is keeping saw

profits down from £23.1m to
£19.2m.

Second, Debenhams Finance,
the credit business which
operates through Welbeck, is
recorded as slipping from losses
of £119,000 to losses of £1.9m,
understandable given 17 per
cent minimum lending rate.

Third, the concerns Debenhams
has disposed of are seen to
have lost a hefty £5.34m
against £2.27m the year before.

The disposal of these concerns
marks the end of an era.

Under Mr Robert Thornton as
chief executive, who takes over
from Sir Anthony Burney as
chairman in July, Debenhams
tried to move from department
stores into what seemed more
promising areas. But the last
year's cut got rid of them.

Greens, Caters, Cresta, New
Dimension, and Hardy Amies.

In exchange for losses Deben-
hams realized nearly £13m

which went to cut borrowings.

The result was that at the end
of the financial year the group
had net borrowings of about
£55m after spending £29m on
fixed assets, putting debt at 28
per cent of shareholders' funds.

The group reports that after
last June's VAT increase sales
grew difficult. As a department
store big in women's clothing
(33 per cent of turnover last
year) Debenhams was hit hard
as prices were slashed. But
stocks are now said to be
"healthy".

The group could well make
profits of only £4.5m in the first
half of this year (seasonally the
least important) but it expects
to recover strongly in the
second half. Analysts expect the
group to make about £15m this
year, against £11.5m, but it will
have to, in order to cover the
dividend under current cost
accounting. The shares
hardened 1p to 67p.

As the source and application
of funds statement suggests,
however, the improvement was
only partly due to the £30m im-
provement in pre-tax profits to
£38.7m.

Other important factors were
the sale of assets—which
brought in £15m before the year
end, and a further £35m since
then, which has also been used
to cut borrowings, a £20.9m de-
crease in the working capital
requirement—mainly reflecting
a run-down in the amounts tied
up in land and property; and
a decision to cut back on capital
spending, which was down
from £130m in 1978 to £54m in
1979.

In the event, though short-
term loans have actually in-
creased from £117.3m to
£130.6m.



Photograph by John Manning

P & O cuts
borrowings
by £102m

By Adrienne Gleeson

Longer-term borrowings of P
& O dropped by some £42m to
£256.5m, the annual report re-
veals, over the year to the end
of December last, and total
borrowings declined by £102m
to £322m, while shareholders'
funds increased from £410.6m
to £475.8m.

As the source and application
of funds statement suggests,
however, the improvement was
only partly due to the £30m im-
provement in pre-tax profits to
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creased from £117.3m to
£130.6m.

London and European
buys stake in Newman

By Rosemary Unsworth

London and European Group,
a property investment-to-
engineering company, has
bought a 15.39 per cent stake
in Newman Industries. More
than 3.8 million shares were
bought in the last week
through the market following
Newman's poor results, when
profits plunged from £6.2m to
£378,000 and the final dividend
was passed.

The results sent the share
price tumbling 7p to 42p last
week and it is understood that
London and European bought
its holding at around this level.

London and European has
also asked Newman's board
for a meeting to discuss the
matter and is awaiting a reply.

Mr P. A. Tett, a London and
European director, said yester-
day that the purchase was
part of the group's investment
policy and fitted in with the
chairman's statement that the
liquidity of the company

placed it in a strong position
to make appropriate acqui-
sitions.

Mr Tett did not rule out the
possibility of the group buying
more shares in Newman, and
added that he could not yet
judge the prospect of making
a full bid.

Newman's results were col-
oured by the internal costs of
action by the Prudential which
left two of its directors facing
a damages bill for £450,000.

After a long and costly
action in the High Court, it
was ruled that the Prudential,
a minority holder in Newman,
and other shareholders had
suffered damages as a result
of a conspiracy to mislead
shareholders into accepting a
deal that was not in the fi-
nancial interests of the com-
pany.

The engineering strike, the
charges and redundancy costs
charged an dredging costs
also contributed to the dis-
appointing figures, the board
said.

Business appointments

Mr Christopher Wyatt to
head building group

Mr Christopher Wyatt, deputy
chairman of the Costain Group,
will succeed Mr John Sowden as
chairman, Mr Sowden is retiring
after the annual meeting on June
16.

Mr Granville White has been
elected chairman of the council
of the Institute of Credit Man-
agement. He succeeds Mr Michael
Connor, chairman for the past
three years. Mr P. G. L. Mudge
has been elected vice-chairman.

Mr P. J. Saunders becomes
managing director of Bowser
Pneumatics.

Mr Michael F. Bruce has joined
Wigham Poland Reinsurance
Brokers as an associate director.

Mr Maxwell Cressy has been
made a non-executive director of
Granger Trust. He replaces Mr
K. H. Sheppard who has retired.

Mr T. H. Herley has joined
the board of Crouch Group as a
non-executive director.

Major General Michael Cullen
has been made a director of IDC.



Mr Christopher Wyatt

Mr G. P. Theobald has joined
the board of Mowat Holdings.
Mr L. Carter, vice-president
and general manager of Hawker
Sidelco Switchgear, Montreal,
has been appointed a director of
the company.

Mr Peter J. Prior, chairman of
B. P. Bulmer is to be the next
president of the Incorporated So-
ciety of British Advertisers. Sir
Adrian Cadbury, who has been
president of the society since
1978, will become the new vice-
president in succession to Sir John
Greenborough.

Mr James R. Cowan, director of
the Scottish Area of the National
Coal Board and also member of
the main board, has been ap-
pointed chairman of the Scottish
Brick Corporation, a company
which is owned jointly by the
National Coal Board, Thomas
Tilling and Aurora Holdings.
Mr Richard Fern has been
named as deputy managing direc-
tor of De Mande Advertisers.
Mr T. Broom, becomes manag-
ing director of Audie Pro (Hi-Fi).
Mr Jim Smith, managing direc-
tor of Parker Winter & Achurch
has been elected chairman of the
Guild of Architectural Iron-
mongers. Mr Graham Shirville of
G. & S. Allgood becomes vice-
chairman. Mr Les Preece, of Les
Preece & Partners, is made deputy
vice-chairman. Mr William Shep-
herd, of George Boyd, has been
elected Hon Treasurer. Mr and
Mrs Moss of Smith, Widdowson
& Eadon has been elected educa-
tion chairman.

Associated
Engineering
outlook
clouded

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Component manufacturer
Associated Engineering in-
creased pre-tax profits by only
2 per cent to £10.5m in the
half-year to March 31 and the
outlook for the second half re-
mains uncertain.

At the annual general meet-
ing last January Mr John
Ferguson, the chairman, held
out hope for some improvement
in full-year profits if the steel
strike was quickly settled and
there were no other major dis-
ruptions.

However, he now says that
the impact of the steel strike,
which cost the group nearly
£1m in lost profit in the first
half, is still being felt. This,
together with the increasing
signs of recession "make fore-
casting profits for the second
half with any degree of ac-
curacy, extremely difficult".

In the first half, a rise of
nearly a fifth in pre-interest
profits to £16.2m was largely
eroded by the sharp jump in
net interest charges from £3.3m
to £5.7m. The increase in pre-
interest profits arose from
acquisitions and from the over-
seas companies.

The United Kingdom com-
panies, suffering from the alter-
cations of the engineering strike
as well as the steel strike and
inflationary pressures, turned
in a flat performance. United
Kingdom exports showed an
encouraging increase in value
of nearly a third, but margins
were squeezed.

Group sales for the six
months were 24 per cent higher
at £227m, but 8 per cent of the
increase was due to acquisitions
and the bulk of the rise
occurred overseas, where turn-
over was up from £72m to
£59m.

Despite the modest rise in
pre-tax profits, earnings after
tax were lower and the interim
dividend has only been main-
tained at 2.33p gross. Earnings
per share fell from 7.4p to
6.3p because of the higher tax
charge of £3.4m compared with
£2.6m. The increase in the tax
charge was largely accounted for
by a smaller deduction of
deferred tax no longer pro-
vided.

The shares fell 2p yesterday
to 58p. On the basis of a main-
tained final dividend, the
shares yield 14.8 per cent. The
p/e ratio on 1978-79 stated
earnings is 4.2.

Record year for Daimler

International

Daimler Benz expects turn-
over to rise about 10 per
cent, with car production
reaching a record of more than
430,000 units, Herr Gerhard
Prinz, managing board chair-
man, told a press conference.

Herr Prinz said there were
no signs earnings in 1980 would
be much different from 1979
when Daimler made a record
world group net profit of
DM637.8m (£148m) on net sales
of DM27,400m, up from
DM52.8m and DM24,200m in
1978.

Last year the group produced
422,160 cars, a 7.4 per cent in-
crease on 1978, and 256,470 com-
mercial vehicles, a 7 per cent
rise, Herr Prinz said.

In the first four months of
this year the trend has con-
tinued, despite a 6.2 per cent
fall in car production by all
German car makers and an in-
crease of only 6.6 per cent in
overall commercial vehicle
manufacture.

The company earlier
announced a dividend of DM10
for 1979, up from DM9 in 1978.

Deutsche Lufthansa AG's
results in the first three to four
months of this year were much
better than expected but at a
lower level than a year ago,
according to the chairman,
Herr Herbert Culmann.

He said that 1980 should
yield a reasonable result but
mentioned uncertainties about
oil price movements which
made a forecast difficult.

The group showed a Dm
82.17m net profit on sales of
Dm 5,648m after Dm 53.14m
and Dm 4.99bn the previous
year.

Lufthansa's results lower

Continental Gummi-Werke,
the West German rubber pro-
ducts group, expects to resume
dividend payments from next
year with an initial payout on
its 1980 results, Herr Carl Hahn,
the managing board chairman,
said.

Conti-Gummi's last dividend
was DM3.58 in 1971.

Herr Hahn told the annual
press conference that he was
optimistic about the possibility
for a dividend but declined to
indicate how high the payment
would be, adding that he could
not forecast developments dur-
ing the rest of the year.

Conti-Gummi announced
group 1979 net profits of
DM23m (£5.3m) and parent
company net profits of
DM10.9m against DM3.8m in
1978.

The overall outlook for the
Mannesmann Group of Dussel-
dorf this year is a small increase
in sales and a slight improve-
ment in the business climate,
the chairman, Herr Egon Over-
beck said.

First quarter group sales were
however 2 per cent down on
the year-ago period at DM2.6bn
(about £466m) net profit of
the group in 1979 was DM155m

However, a spokesman could
not forecast business perfor-
mance for the whole year, saying
the company could not foresee
the impact of higher interest
rates and rising crude oil
prices.

The company earlier reported
a 41 per cent rise in after-tax
profit for the year ended March
31 to £5,000m, up from 37,500m
a year earlier, on sales up 13
per cent to 1.70 trillion yen
from 1.51 trillion.

Hitachi confident of profits rise

Hitachi said it expects after-
tax profit and sales for the
first half, ending September 30,
to rise by about 10 per cent
from 27,550m yen (£51m) and
865,000m yen respectively, from
the six months to March 31.

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from

Wall Street

100-44388-100

Stock Exchange Prices

Engineers suffer setback

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 12. Dealings End, May 30. Contango Day, June 2. Settlement Day, June 9

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



Low stock				High stock				Low stock				High stock			
Price	Change	Div	Yld	Price	Change	Div	Yld	Price	Change	Div	Yld	Price	Change	Div	Yld
FISHPONDS															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
MONETARY AND FOREIGN															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
41 AUTHORITIES															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
DOLLAR STOCKS															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
NEW AND DISCOUNTS															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
ENERGIES AND DISTILLERIES															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
SHIPPING															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
MINES															
1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904	1000	12.50	1980	904
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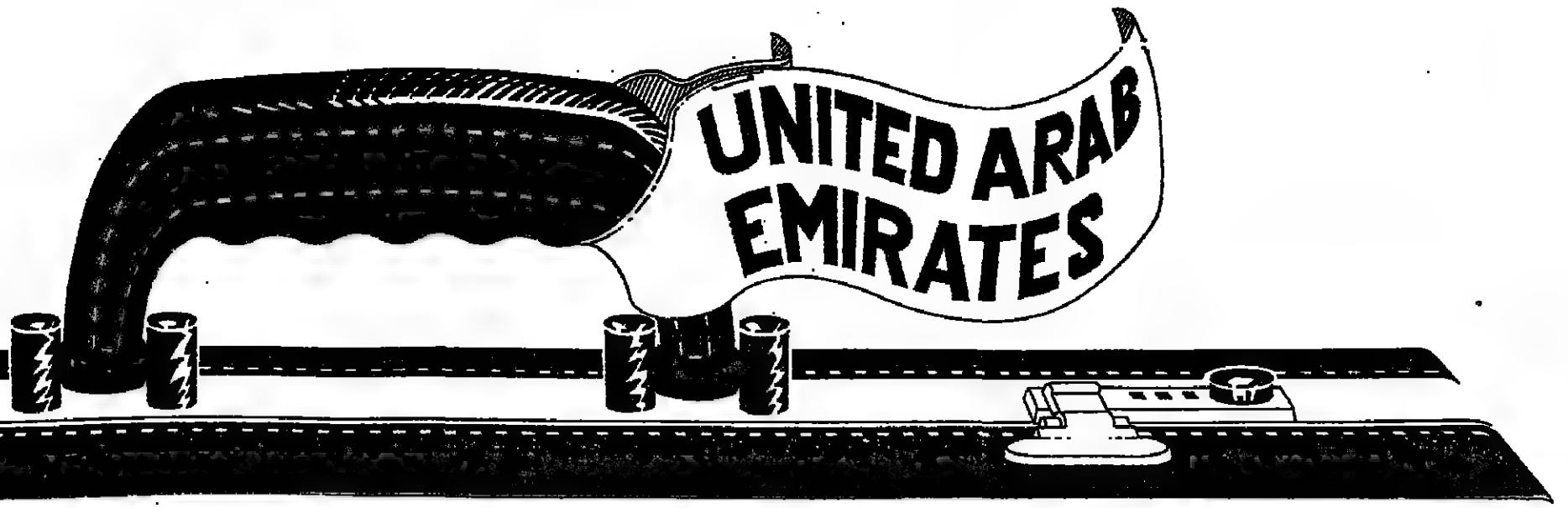
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West has lost friends in The Gulf

It is possible that the rapid events which the first few years of this decade have witnessed upon the Gulf states, the rulers of which make a challenge for the most important West, plant oil in the shift of the light blue waters of the Gulf, in the face of the signs of a visitor would be past to answer whether the state, and they are in much about the UAE in the Gulf states, this is the one with the West, in the British, and neither is Iran, where other events continue to fuel the tensions of the Middle East. And in the UAE, most of the locally-born population is Sunni, not Shia, Muslim, as in the case of Iran. These arguments may sound precise and forceful when expounded inside an

embassy, but they are clearly not accepted by the people themselves. Whatever the illogicalities of it all to Western eyes, an insult to Islam still surmounts geographical, political and, to an extent, sectarian barriers. In the case of the UAE, such feelings are evident, but not to the extent that they might be expected, per se, to reshape attitudes in The Gulf. Some powerful catalyst is needed, more powerful even than the stinging offence which the ATV film *Death of a Prince* caused to the ruling house of Saudi Arabia. British businessmen may have trembled at the economic consequences of the film within Saudi, but in the UAE there has been only one effect—video cassettes of the film, pirated from Britain, are in great demand. The public utterances of the UAE sheikhs have been few, and they have kept their peace with the Saudis by assuring them privately that they too found the film offensive to Islam, though the idea of a princess being executed in similar circumstances in the UAE is unthinkable. In the event, the catalyst which has combined with this muted respect for Islam to become a real form of political debate came from America. Its precursors were President Carter's public statements that America would protect its vital oil links with the Middle East by force if necessary. While in the West such promises may be seen as part of an international hardening of America's foreign policy, in The Gulf they are interpreted as threats to intervene militarily against states normally thought of as allies. As one UAE official expressed it: "This is like saying that Britain's North Sea oil is the property of those who need it, rather than those who own it". These fears were aggravated by the admittedly hypothetical thesis that the Americans' actions in freeing Iranian petrodollars in America after the overthrow of the Shah could just as easily be extended to any other Middle East state which falls foul of Washington. While such moves cannot, in anyone's eyes, add up to a Western conspiracy against The Gulf, they do serve to start suspicion about Western motives. The UAE is particularly prone to agonising over the question of outside interference in its affairs. The federation itself, through its own choice, has embarked on a policy of attracting many immigrants to fill lowly jobs in the service industries, mostly from India and Sri Lanka. The natives are outnumbered two to one in the professions where most positions are taken by English staff. For the locally-born UAE resident, the future is secured economically by the

federation's oil income, but the structure of power is such that the state and its closely-linked industrial efforts appear to be administered by outsiders. The introduction of Western values is tolerated rather than welcomed and in a position of political stress it should not be surprising if there is increasing talk within the UAE of the damage which Western immigrants inflict upon traditional Arab culture. These suspicions of the West were seemingly confirmed by President Carter's abortive mission to rescue the hostages in Tehran. To the West the move may appear to be the result of a frustrated administration which has exhausted all other avenues of action. For many rulers along The Gulf, it has reduced American standing to that of the Russians. The semantic difference between what the Americans describe as a force of "intervention" and the Russian invasion of Afghanistan does not translate itself into Arabic. To the Arabs, they are both *Tadakhul* and receive equal condemnation. This is not to say that the aftermath of the American venture into Iran will be a serious destabilisation of the whole of the Gulf region. The riot police in Dubai, the second most important UAE state after Abu Dhabi, may have been drilling noisily on the night of the rescue attempt to discourage protest from the substantial local Iranian population, but such obvious consequences are unlikely to stem from recent events. From a purely partisan point of view, the past few months, perhaps surprisingly, have done nothing to damage the close relationship which exists between the UAE and the many British concerns and employees who make their living in the area, a relationship forged in the days of the Trucial States. UAE rulers differentiate clearly between the actions of the American Administration, which has a small diplomatic presence in The Gulf, and those of the British, who are present in considerable numbers. Any serious threat to the stability of the region will come from elsewhere, from a less solidly based state or some such action as a military blockade in The Gulf. Britain will continue to do well out of The Gulf and maintain good relations there. The doubts for the future which are expressed by Westerners in the UAE are centred on the belief that current events are decided by immediate, and not long-term, considerations. Whatever happens in the world, the West will need The Gulf. In the past year, it has lost old friends there and made few new ones. The results may take years to make themselves known, but no one doubts that the Arabs have long memories.

David Hewson

Jerome Caminada reports on the state of the federation

Moving towards unity

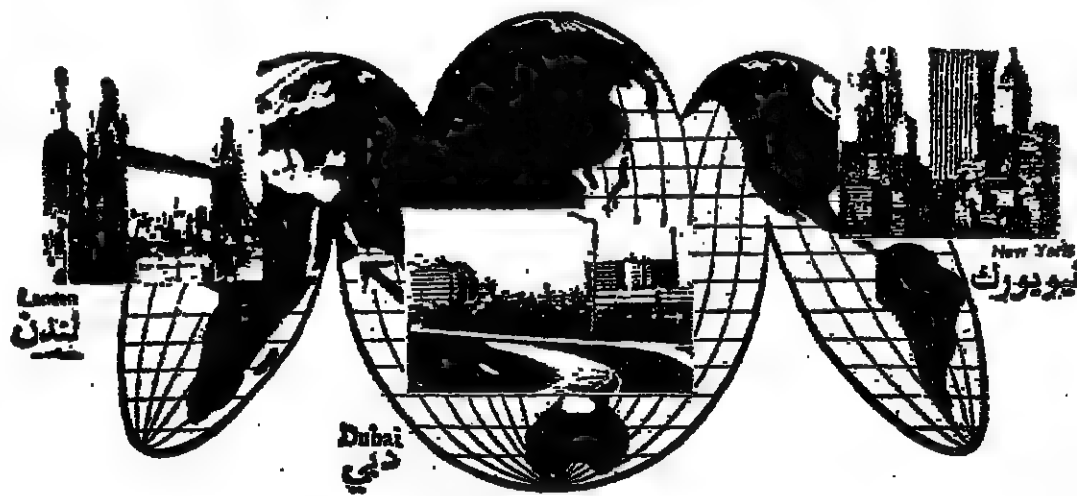
The federation known as the United Arab Emirates is now in its ninth year. It has survived better than some of the federations round the world, but whereas in the first few years internal strains were the main danger, now powerful outside events are the challenge. Potential dangers from abroad, such as fears of Russian interference, have not yet knitted the seven emirates which form the federation completely together, but they do help to discourage disunity. Oil revenue-sharing, defence, possible subversion, and a loosening of the feudal system to give more room for criticism and public debate are all being discussed, though mainly in private. There will not be great changes overnight, but there may be slow changes. Already one change has taken place which, outwardly at any rate, has eased the traditional rivalry between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two principal emirates. Sheikh Rashid bin Said al Maktum, the long-established, vigorous and individualistic Ruler of Dubai, last summer became Prime Minister of the UAE, as well as Vice-President. This brought him closer to Sheikh Zayed bin Sulayman al Nahyan, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi who has been President of the UAE since the beginning in 1971, and who financially and in other ways has been the linchpin of the federation. The two men this year have been working together in Abu Dhabi, the Minister of Defence and his headquarters are in Dubai. The Minister is Sheikh Mohammed, son of the Ruler of Dubai, who takes his responsibilities seriously, and is known as a skilful natural pilot. From the federal viewpoint it is no bad thing to have the Ministry of Defence in Dubai near the geographical centre of the UAE; the Ministry of Agriculture is there, too. Nor is it to be wondered at that the forces drawn from the seven components of his sons, Sheikh Sultan, of so young a state, and as Commander in Chief without consultation, Dubai withdrew from the unified command—even two Japanese karate instructors—as well as locally-born Arabs, have not yet been forged into one gleaming sword. But if suddenly any real military threat confronted the UAE, the command would have to be centred in the Northern Emirates; while in Dubai there has been one brigade and an air wing. The forces in Dubai still wear the same uniform as the others; but the police there, also now detached from a federal command, do not wear the federal police uniform. The curious part of this situation is that while the Supreme Commander, the Deputy Supreme Commander—who is Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, the Pre-

continued on page III

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Economy

When the wells run dry

The UAE imported more than two watches in 1979 for every man, woman and child living in the country. That sort of statistic is indicative of the taste for consumer goods and luxury items being developed by a nation which in 1979 had one of the highest per capita incomes in the world—\$15,453.

Such figures can be misleading. The economy in 1979 generated a huge surplus of exports compared with imports. Oil revenues at \$14,000m easily topped the import total of about \$6,000m. Yet when merchants meet they tend to talk about the recession and their bankers chide them by warning that the boom period is over.

With energy prices high it is hard to believe that the boom is over or that in an oil economy mistakes can cause lasting damage. The economy has been damaged though, by excesses in the mid-1970s, particularly in the northern emirates which now depend on the federation for money to complete their main services programmes started in the mid-1970s.

Driving north through airports, ports, roads, power

stations and civic amenities. The result was a duplication of projects, rapid and largely uncontrolled expansion of the banking system and much waste. However, the policy has its defenders. An economist at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi says: "Although it is clear now that too many airports and hotels have been built for a small country, think what they would cost at today's prices."

The question uppermost in the mind of UAE businessmen and their customers is whether the economy is about to pick up. While Abu Dhabi has continued to be the focus for continuing government spending there has been little elsewhere since the money began to dry up in Dubai and Sharjah in mid-1977. M. Hugo de Clercq, who is a representative for Banque Paribas Lambert of Belgium, reflects a feeling of the Dubai expatriate business community when he says: "Although I am based in Dubai, most of my customers are outside the emirate. I could really spend a good part of each week in Abu Dhabi—if only I had the time."

It is a symptom of the UAE business scene that many companies which were in Dubai in the early 1970s are now thinking about moving to Abu Dhabi. The best hope for reversing this drift rests in the 1980 federal budget which has been approved by the Council of Ministers (cabinet) at a record 16,000m dirhams (\$4,278m) although no detailed breakdown is available and it still awaits approval by the Federal National Council (advisory assembly) and the Supreme Council of Rulers.

Mr Ahmad al-Tajer, Under-Secretary for Finance and Industry, says the budget will have 550,600,000 dirhams (\$147m) for new projects against 48m dirhams (\$12,800,000) in 1979. If this extra disbursement comes about it will go a long way towards meeting the demands of the northern emirates for a greater share of development funds. The UAE already suffers from having a bloated bureaucracy, with 33,601 civil servants to serve a population of less than one million at the last count in February, and there are some fears that extra federal funds will

merely create more from expatriates. Opinion differs as to which the extent to which the UAE, to take of prime minister 1979 has changed the Cabinet has been regularly since some ministries have been rejuvenated, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has acquired new drawn from the tax. Bankers in Dubai industry has started to spend more and they foundation has been more business for contractors and recent years than al authority.

They also point out that the UAE has been a success story for the last decade. Continued on

Oil

Dirhams damaged by the dollar

Most of the United Arab Emirates' population of 891,000 have never seen an oil well. Yet petrol, as it is called since there is no sound in Arabic, is as emotive an issue as coal in south Yorkshire or steel in Wales.

This was shown recently when demonstrations erupted after moves to increase petrol prices in Dubai and the northern emirates. Despite being Opec's fourth largest producer with an output of 1,800,000 barrels a day (b/d) the UAE is vulnerable when it comes to refined products made from crude oil. Of the seven emirates only Abu Dhabi has its own refinery, and the 15,000 b/d plant at Umm al Nar island outside the capital provides only 40 per cent of Abu Dhabi's needs.

The demonstrators called for the nationalization of the foreign oil companies (BP, Caltex and Shell) which run the garages in the northern emirates. The Government acted quickly by introducing a subsidy which effectively cut the pump prices, now 3.30 dirhams a gallon (40p), to close to the 1979 levels, and for the time being the question of nationalization has been shelved.

With an oil revenue of about \$15,000m expected in 1980 it is hard to see how anyone could be dissatisfied. Yet in the suks and juice houses of Abu Dhabi and Dubai citizens and merchants grumble about the way they feel their country's revenue is damaged by the dollar. "Our currency should be strong since it is an oil currency", a leading Dubai merchant who advises a British bank, said, "yet I believe it is undervalued by at least 7.5 per cent."

Over the bubble pipes locals are quick to point out that what is important to the economy of an emirate is oil revenues, not federal subsidies from Abu Dhabi or other sources. In Ras al Khaymah last December when news spread of the imminent arrival of a large oil company (Gulf Oil) to start a drilling programme, house rents shot up. An expatriate said: "In the end it turned out that only three geologists arrived, and that put an end to the rent speculation."

Although the UAE belongs to Opec, only Abu Dhabi of the three oil-producing emirates follows Opec decisions on pricing its crude oil. Dubai and Sharjah fix their own prices. In mid-1979 Dubai had recourse to the spot market to sell considerable quantities of its production of about 354,000 barrels a day—a practice not followed by Abu Dhabi.

Dubai, though scarcely one of the world's large producers, exports more crude oil than neighbouring Oman, and the revenue is crucial to understanding the economic plans of the Ruler, Shaikh Rashid, for his emirate. The UAE's oil story really begins and ends in Abu Dhabi, which has more than 85 per cent of the national production, and most of the proved reserves of 32,400 million barrels.

The reserves figure is thought to be on the conservative side, as the UAE Oil Minister, Mr Mansur bin Said al Otaiba, says that actual reserves are larger than any previously published figure. Speaking rhetorically, perhaps, he has said that the UAE would produce "The Gulf's last barrel of oil". What he was referring to was the UAE's policy of conservation, and its determination to produce only as much as is needed to meet revenue requirements of the state and its ruling families.

The oil ministry at this stage in the development of the federation is more concerned with external policy and Opec affairs. Abu Dhabi's oil policy is determined by the Abu Dhabi Executive Council (emirate cabinet) headed by the Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler, Shaikh Khalifa, through the state holding company, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

ADNOC is the biggest force in UAE business. It has since its formation in 1971 gradually tightened its grip on the onshore and offshore oil operations through its administration of the 50 per cent government stake in ADCO, formerly the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company, and ADMA-OPCO, formerly Abu Dhabi Marine Areas. These companies involve as minority equity partners British Petroleum (BP), Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP), Shell and the Japan Oil Development Company, which have the larger shares, and Mobil, Exxon and the Galubankian interest. Fartex which have smaller stakes.

BP was at one time considered the strongest of the western partners in Abu Dhabi oil affairs, but that role has now switched to CFP with consequent loss to British business and gain to French trade.

What is clear now is that ADNOC with its largely Algerian management team, some of them seconded from the state hydrocarbons concern Sonatrach, has brought the minority partners round to its way of thinking on production levels and exploration. It is the view of ADNOC's managing director, Dr Mahmoud Hamra Krouha, that "irreparable damage" was done to the reservoirs of the offshore oil fields by over-production when the foreign companies controlled the offshore operations before the Government took a majority stake.

In an interview on March 17 he said: "Take the Umm Shaif field which BP operated for ADMA. In 1974 they were saying it could produce 695,000 barrels a day; two years later they said 395,000 barrels. Finally, when ADNOC finished its studies, they agreed with us that the operational reasonable level should not exceed 250,000 barrels."

Dr Krouha says that the foreign partners have been converted to ADNOC's way of thinking. Abu Dhabi

is one of the few Opec producers where the partners are still allowed to take equity crude, although ADNOC is committed to reducing these entitlements. At the moment two thirds of Abu Dhabi's production of about 1,400,000 barrels a day comes from the onshore oil fields, and is exported from the Jebel Dhanna loading terminal 100 miles west of Abu Dhabi. The most important production area by the mid-1980s will be offshore at the Upper Zakum field, where CFP is the operator and which is expected to be producing 500,000 barrels by 1986.

The Upper Zakum development will be the costliest in the lower Gulf, amounting to \$4,000m. ADNOC has taken the Japanese company JODCO as a minority partner in this field; but for differing reasons, possibly the cost, the other offshore partners declined to join.

Every emirate would like to have Abu Dhabi's oil power. In Dubai there is a modest programme of exploration on shore, where two American companies have a concession and have recently started drilling, and a new concession has been awarded to Atlantic Richfield of the United States.

The offshore which involved Opec is keeping levels high, but as long they can be maintained, the confidence of foreign partners by last October the offshore companies half their oil to the extent at a discount.

The unhappy ducer is Sharjah. Mubarak field is down to less than 30,000 barrels a day, although no official data is available. Although the pros finding more oil is encouraging, it is prepared to guess production might start fields.

Ras al Khaymah Umm al Qaywayn have all oil concessions, but commercial discovery has been made. The 1 has been Ras al which twice since it has believed itself road to oil wealth see the oil men less handed.

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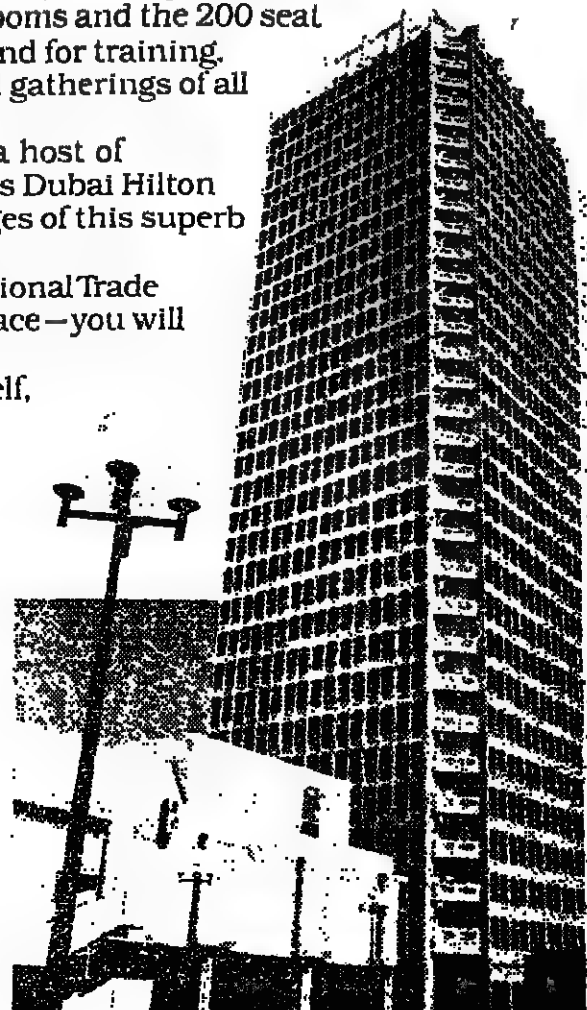
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Gas

Great expectations

1980 could well be a year of great expectations for the UAE. Pro-natural gas production is expected to start this month. The first of these is likely to be a \$200m ammonia and urea factory on which ADNOC is considering offers from four pre-qualified design and construction groups, including Chiyoda of Japan, a Japanese-United States joint venture — Kawasaki-Kellogg-Udhe of West Germany and Heurtay of France. A decision is expected from ADNOC in May with a possible start in late 1980.

Plans for petrochemicals using gas as feedstock are more vague and unlikely to take shape before the late 1980s.

Abu Dhabi has succeeded in linking the price of its gas exports to the cost of its crude oil. This means that gas prices rise when changes are made in the export price of the main export, oil. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have taken similar steps.

ADNOC believes that the Gasco project, which will harness gas at present flared, is only a start. At the Umm Shaiy oil field drilling last year in the deep Khuff zone 35km east of Das Island produced a test at 80 million cu ft a day. The gas was good quality with a low sulphur content and ADNOC believes it may be one of the world's biggest discoveries.

In an interview in March ADNOC's managing director, Dr Mahmoud Hamra Krauth, emphasised ADNOC's commitment to the gas programme, said: "This year we are planning another deep well in the offshore Zakum field to test the Khuff structure still further. It is too early to speak about the future of this discovery after only one well."

ADNOC is also expecting to do onshore exploration drilling in the Khuff structure at 18,000ft to 20,000ft in a few months. Dubai had hoped to bring its gas plant on stream in February but the Dubai Natural Gas Company (Dugac) has experienced delays. The main user will be the Dubai Aluminium Company's smelter adjacent to the Dugac plant at Jebel Ali outside Dubai. The gas will come from Dubai's offshore Fath field and be piped to Dugac. After the propane, butane and condensate have been separated from the incoming "wet gas" the dry residue gas, a mixture of methane and ethane, will be headed on to Dubai to power its plant.

The propane and butane will eventually be loaded on to tankers at the Jebel Ali industrial port, which is expected about one tanker a month, and then be exported to Japan. Agreement has recently been reached on a long-term contract with C. H. Dugas, a subsidiary of Sunningdale Oils of Canada. The comparatively modest cost of Dugas, about \$400m, means that the scheme should pay for itself in about four years despite the high interest rates on some of the borrowing associated with the project.

Dugas avoided agreeing fixed prices with its customers which means that the Government will benefit from the high market prices being set by other producers of LPG. To a small producer of crude oil it also means saving the energy equivalent of 30,000 barrels a day of oil which represents the value of the gas now harnessed which was previously flared.

Dubai has hopes of finding independent gas fields in the Khuff structure since there are doubts whether the plant can produce all the residue gas needed by the emirates. At a political level an agreement has been reached with Abu Dhabi for the supply of any extra gas needed by Dubai. ADNOC may undertake the construction of a gas pipeline between the two emirates although no time scale has been put on this.

The northern emirates also hope to find gas. Sharjah said recently that gas tests by Foreman Exploration of New Orleans and the United Kingdom company London-Scottish Marine Oil were encouraging, with flow rates in one well 20 miles north-east of Sharjah of eight million cu ft a day and 6,400,000 cu ft a day. Umm al Qaywayn was also hopeful at one stage of finding gas and even started talks with Dubai with a view to piping the gas to Jebel Ali. Although the possibility of gas in the northern emirates cannot be ruled out the likelihood of any commercial find being made in the next few years is remote unless a major exploration programme is mounted. This would mean investment beyond the means of all but Abu Dhabi.

J.W.

Finance

Measures under way to set up Central Bank

Bankers in the United Arab Emirates are waiting to see whether the latest attempt by Shaikh Zayed and Shaikh Rashid to agree on the structure of a Central Bank is successful. Such a bank has been considered for more than three years, but has been held up by what one senior local banker called "political rather than technical factors".

A Central Bank was originally recommended in May 1977, by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after a crisis which caused the closure of two local banks. At present, banking is regulated by a Currency Board but, without guaranteed funds from the emirates, it can have little real influence. One banker said its job was to "issue notes but it has no real control".

Shaikh Zayed and Shaikh Rashid appear to have settled their differences. They announced after a meeting in March that an agreement had been reached and that measures for the bank to start functioning would be taken soon.

The crucial point is that Abu Dhabi and Dubai have agreed to deposit half their oil revenues with the Central Bank. Until now the emirates have been opposed to surrendering a stipulated portion of their oil income, but this is essential to support the dirham. The Central Bank will also be able to allocate 1,000m dirhams (\$267,300,000) a year to support real estate dealing and issue the federal budget.

There is still some uncertainty about what is meant by half oil revenues—Abu Dhabi wants this to include all income, but Dubai wants to exclude its lucrative earnings on the spot market. It is also not clear whether Dubai will allow the deposits to remain with a Central Bank without receiving commercial interest rates.

It is essential that the Central Bank has enough independence to regulate banking in the emirates. The UAE was allowed to become probably the most overbanked country in the world, and control of the supply of dirhams on to the market is erratic. The appointment of a governor will be crucial—he must be strong enough to stop the Central Bank being one only in name.

The Currency Board managing director, Mr

Abdul Malik al Hamar, has simply not had sufficient powers for efficient control. International bankers are critical of the board's lack of specialisation, and its inability to regulate the banking sector adequately.

They are particularly worried at the lack of liquidity in the UAE; funds attracted by dollar interest rates have left the emirates, and the Currency Board has been unable to regulate the flow of dirhams on to the interbank market. Mr Abdullah Masrui, managing director of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, says that many banks were in danger of not having enough cash to stay liquid.

Western bankers are sceptical about the way the Currency Board regulates liquidity. "Nobody knows how liquidity is created. It is a critical mystery to the banking sector," one said. Others declare that there is no correlation between the petrodollars earned and the amount of money which came on the market.

Mr al Hamar admits that he is disturbed that so much money goes out of the market, but says that pump out more dirhams into the economy would have dangerous side effects. "It is possible to increase liquidity, but we are not keen to fund the market further. Increasing the money supply has other implications, like increasing inflation," he has pointed out.

The spectre that haunts every banker in the UAE is a repetition of the 1977 crisis, caused by Abu Dhabi's decision to cut its monthly flow of funds to the Currency Board, which in turn had an adverse effect on the dirham. The crisis culminated in May 1977 when the Janata Bank of Bangladesh and the Ajman Arab Bank were suspended.

Government sources say the crisis cannot be repeated. One has remarked that "even when dirhams cover fell to less than 30 per cent in 1977 the dirham was never in real danger... the real problem is what to do with surplus revenue, not the fact there is too little money". Western bankers accept these reassurances, but declare that it is essential to keep bankers' confidence.

The new Central Bank is unlikely to lift the moratorium on new banking licences, which was introduced in 1977. It is widely

accepted that there are too many banks—the market is dominated by a few big banks, leaving very little for the others to fight over.

Mr al Hamar believes that the moratorium will continue this year, and that licences will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, where there is a heavy local involvement. He says there are a number of small banks which "have the right to live, but it is the wrong policy to have so many banks with a shallow market".

There is clearly not enough commercial business to go round. Some banks are spending a lot of money to keep an office going, and are getting little in return. Three banks—the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Bank of Credit and Commerce International and Khalil Commercial Bank are thought to do between 80 and 85 per cent of business.

The biggest danger is that with so much business in the hands of a few banks the others will agree almost any

loans. "More and more risk for less and less reward" is the way one banker has put it.

The drop in business in the Gulf and the increase in international interest rates are making life difficult for merchants and bankers alike. Some banks, which in the mid-1970s could make a healthy profit from managing syndicated loans, now have to develop a broader merchant wholesale business with less emphasis on management and more on putting credits on their own books.

Merchants, who set up their own banks to finance property development when it was possible to get a return on capital with two years, are particularly hard hit by the end of the property boom; some private sector banks in Abu Dhabi would almost certainly have gone bankrupt without government support.

Nigel Dudley

Middle East Economic Digest



Customers at the counter in the British Bank of the Middle East, Dubai.

Moving towards unity

continued from page 1

emirate population which does not reach 300,000, and of whom perhaps only a third are locally born.

Dubai, with production of fewer than 300,000 barrels a day, is not in the same class; nevertheless, its revenue of, say, \$9m a day is a worthy sum. Sharjah, the third oil-producing emirate, has fallen to fewer than 10,000 barrels a day.

How much of these sums go to the ruler's privy purses, and how much to the federal budget, has been closely guarded information. Shaikh Zayed has dispensed sums to the poorer rulers, and approved aid to countries deemed worth while.

Funds are placed in the United States, Japan, Britain and elsewhere as a "pension" for the emirates—or for the federal government—that by such means oil wells run dry.

A proposal that half the oil revenues—and income from gas production—has to be considered also—should go into the federal budget.

There is almost agreement that this should be done, and in individual emirate

expansion there is not quite such a rush to the mainland; but their emirates could be wrong.

In Dubai, Shaikh Rashid's new port of Jebel Ali, near the Abu Dhabi border, which he hopes will one day be surrounded by industry, has begun slowly, though the aluminium smelter near by has done better. The dry dock between Dubai town and Jebel Ali, opened by the Queen in February 1979, had not had a ship in it more than a year later. The management of the dock had not been settled.

In this commercial tug of war the northern non-oil emirates Ras al Khaymah, Umm al Qaywayn, Ajman and Al Fujayrah go their relatively quiet way; but in political developments all are involved.

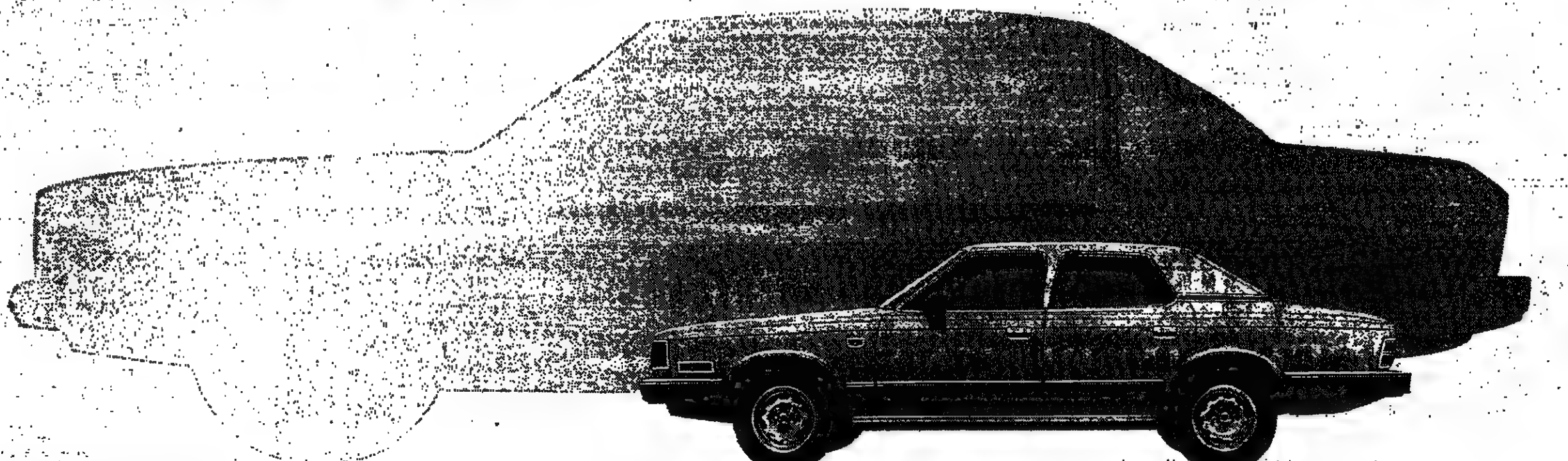
UAE graduates returning from abroad have become more vocal in airing their grievances, and they have not been discouraged so far at federal headquarters. There is no move yet to elect the National Assembly of 40 members who are at present nominated; but both the rulers and the people of the UAE are feeling their way.

Some of Abu Dhabi's and Jebel Ali's opposition to industrialisation, hospitals, schools and other services they accept; but not more industry, and with it ever more immigrants to run it. The flow of immigrants makes the locally-born population in all the federation more and more uneasy.

Arguments about the pace and nature of development were heard 20 years ago when modern Abu Dhabi was conceived, and they are still echoing. Abu Dhabi town lies on an island connected with the mainland by a decorative bridge, and a grand new airport is being constructed in the desert on the mainland 30 miles away, by extending roads. When one asks: "Why so far away?" the answer is that planners visualise the town one day

spilling over well on to the mainland; but their emirates could be wrong. In Dubai, Shaikh Rashid's new port of Jebel Ali, near the Abu Dhabi border, which he hopes will one day be surrounded by industry, has begun slowly, though the aluminium smelter near by has done better. The dry dock between Dubai town and Jebel Ali, opened by the Queen in February 1979, had not had a ship in it more than a year later. The management of the dock had not been settled.

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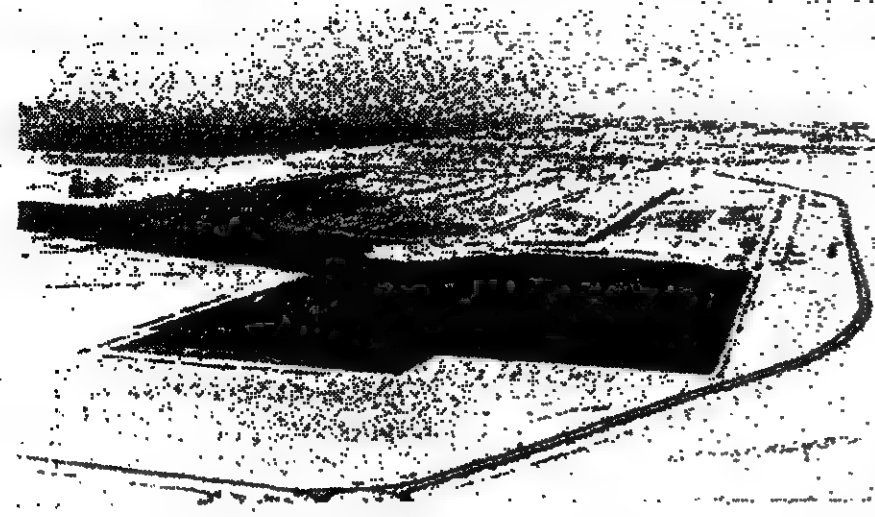
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Industry

Ship repair project a warning against over-enthusiasm

The giant cranes of the Dubai dry dock dominate the surroundings even through the dust whipped up at this time of the year. Yet since the £230m three-dock complex was opened by Queen Elizabeth and Shaikh Rashid, the Ruler of Dubai, in February, 1979, the equipment has been idle.

On the face of it, Dubai's most ambitious ship repair project looks like a white elephant, and a warning against over-enthusiasm for heavy industry in the Gulf.

The hunch appears to be delay in finding an operator for the yard built by a British joint venture of Costain-Taylor Woodrow, and financed by international borrowing which at today's interest rates must be causing Shaikh Rashid some worry. The South Wales ship repair group C. H. Bailey, whose chairman is Mr Christopher Bailey, appeared to have clinched the management contract in late 1978 when it announced the conclusion of a "preliminary agreement"; but since then the discussions have made little progress.

Other bids included one by the Korean Shipbuilding and Engineering Corporation, one of the Asian shipyards which have visited Dubai for talks with the Ruler's adviser on industrial projects, Mr Oscar Mandoo.

Most comment about the Dubai docks, which could

take a one-million-ton crude carrier if one were ever built, tends to relate to international competition. There are 40 yards in the world capable of taking oil tankers of more than 250,000 tons, including one in Bahrain operated for the UAE's forays into heavy industry, which began during the mid-1970s boom, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), an offshoot of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, by Lisave of Portugal. In view of the struggle ASRY has had to keep its head above water, how would Dubai fare?

C. H. Bailey is probably alone in being optimistic about the prospects; it has projected only a two to seven year period of losses. Shaikh Rashid has made it more difficult for C. H. Bailey to back the project by declining to offer a management fee, which is the deal Lisave managed to arrange with ASRY.

As C. H. Bailey's financial strength is modest, despite its successful fight against nationalization in Britain, it is hard to see how the organization could withstand the heavy burden of initial costs; let alone finance maintenance of the yard and replacement of assets.

An interesting pointer though, is the success the Jebel Ali Port Authority, which is already handling eight vessels a month at the uncompleted port, has had in offering facilities for ships to carry out repairs at anchorage. The authority

believes that the interest shown by ship owners suggests that Dubai has a future as a ship repair centre, situated as it is close to the world's biggest tanker lanes.

While the dry dock is the most controversial of the UAE's forays into heavy industry, which began during the mid-1970s boom, the Dubai Aluminium (Dubal) smelter seems at last to have turned the corner.

The \$1,000m smelter, which is expected to produce 135,000 tonnes of metal a year, has also been the subject of heavy international borrowing. But at a ceremony on March 2 the first ingot cast was handed to Shaikh Rashid, and with a fine sense of public relations the Government announced the creation of the Dubai Aluminium Authority. This is an advisory body, including prominent figures such as Sir James Hanson, chairman since 1964 of Hanson Trust of the United Kingdom, and Mr Alan Moore, the recently appointed director of Lloyds Bank International who was formerly adviser to the Bahrain Monetary Authority.

Reports in the technical press earlier this year said that the native population will be swamped by workers from the Indian sub-continent.

renegotiate the agreements, as they were concluded when the world price for aluminium was less favourable than it is today.

Opinion differs whether Dubai will make a profit. Dubai's management is unequivocal about this, pointing to the success of the Bahrain smelter. In its chief executive, Mr Ian Livingstone, who joined Dubai from Aluminium Bahrain, the industry has an experienced manager familiar with Gulf conditions.

Dubal also argues that original costings were done on a predicted price for 1980 of 60 cents a lb for aluminium. Today the price is above 70 cents. A Dubai spokesman says: "With Dubai at full production, plus or minus one cent can mean a difference to Dubai of about \$2m a year."

Where Dubai differs from Bahrain is that it has no indigenous labour to man its heavy industrial projects, which include besides the local cable-making, steel fabrication, and aluminium extrusions.

Workers have to be brought in, and immigration is becoming an inflammatory issue, there being fears that the native population will be swamped by workers from the Indian sub-continent.

Such fears have not inhibited the progress of the most successful of the UAE's industries—construction materials. Whereas the

smelter and the dry dock, of the emirate Ras al Khaimah, heavy industrial centres along the border with Oman have a Kuwaiti element, the cement industry in particular has brought in participation by the private sector.

In the mid-1970s some doubts were expressed about the number of cement factories under construction: two in Dubai, one at Al Ain in Abu Dhabi emirate, one at Sharjah and one at Ras al Khaimah. Since then work has started on a second cement works in Ras al Khaimah, and plans have been announced for another at Al Fujairah.

There is no accurate figure on total production by the UAE's cement plants, but a difference to Dubai of about 50,000 tonnes a year. In particular are doing good business. Even companies such as Hyundai Construction of South Korea say they buy cement on the local market, although this has something to do with pressure from the Abu Dhabi Government for more local purchasing.

Dubal's imports of cement have almost stopped, and the emirate is said to be self-sufficient in this basic commodity for building. There are now hopes that export of cement will start soon.

Heavy industry provides almost all the local income

of the northern emirate Ras al Khaimah, heavy industrial centres along the border with Oman have a Kuwaiti element, the cement industry in particular has brought in participation by the private sector.

The Noora line for exporting high quality cement to the Gulf, and to Khaymah agree among the best in the emirates quarries done good business in rock by barge to Gulf countries.

Abu Dhabi's heavy industry comes under direction of the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) and the general industry Co, which has been a number of years ADNOC, including a steel plant. ADNOC has been committing Abu Dhabi labour-intensive tries unless joint partners can be found.

There was some hope two years ago for Indian Government to back the steel project, but the talks broke down. The ADNOC project, AD tackling outside gas, and refining at industrial zone of Ruwais west of Abu Dhabi, is a project for a heavy industry.

John V

Light industry

More local products used

It is in the factories rather than the farms of the UAE that the economy has its best chance of realizing the Government's aim to diversify away from dependence on crude oil exports. Despite the romantic attachment of the ruling families to the dream of making the desert bloom, the UAE remains a harsh desert country whose people huddle naturally into towns and have for the most part shed their roots in the nomadic past.

Light industry already has a lot to show for itself in the UAE. Even the depressed northern emirates have their share of successes. The construction materials industry has thrown up a wide variety of ventures specializing in manufacturing products to service the construction industry. In many cases they have had to fight for acceptance, since consultants have often taken the line that the locally-made length of plastic pipe or window frame must be inferior to the product made in the United States or Europe.

At Sharjah's national plastics factory which turns out polypropylene (ppc) pipes for use in irrigation and drip sprinkler systems as well as products for building, Mr Anton N. Krouff, the managing director, is adamant about what would help local industry. He wants to see protection against what he calls unfair competition from exports by industrialized countries.

The emirate governments have been slow to accept this view since it challenges the "free trade" assumptions on which Gulf commerce is based. A lead has been taken by the Abu Dhabi Government in attempting to legislate, through a decision of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council (emirate cabinet), to force contractors to buy goods locally.

The evidence that this policy move has begun to bite is now apparent. Even the Korean companies which have traditionally done as much purchasing as possible in Korea are using the local market for cement, timber, sand, reinforced bar and aggregate.

Mr Jin-Kong Kim, Hyundai Construction UAE director, says: "We follow a policy of procuring all construction materials possible from the local market which is now cheaper than importing them from other sources."

In the other emirates the pressure is indirect and it has to be acknowledged that what light industry has been introduced has come about without much government help. The Dubai soft drinks market is served by a number of local concerns, including Dubai Canning and Beverages Filling Industries which has a product selling Gulf-wide in competition with franchised drinks. Yet to get started, not only were there no subsidies or tariffs against imported products but the technology had to be provided, since in Dubai Canning's view licensing agreements with European manufacturers would have taken

too long to conclude, with little incentive for haste from the European side.

At Dubai's Jebel Ali industrial zone outside the city there is a remarkably successful steel fabrication operation started by Cleveland Bridge and Engineering of the United Kingdom in association with local interests. It has already earned substantial orders from abroad and has contributed to Dubai's non-oil export earnings. If Jebel Ali is to succeed it will need more factories of this nature to provide an industrial undergrowth around the big export projects such as the aluminium smelter and the liquefied gas plant.

Abu Dhabi has been fairly slow to embark on light industry but through its newly formed Abu Dhabi General Industry Corporation should soon get some selected ventures going. The corporation is in talks with two Japanese and one Dutch company over a proposal for an electric cables factory. It is also looking closely at proposals to manufacture welded pipes.

The corporation is broadly following recommendations made by the Swiss consultants Electrowatt in 1976 to the Abu Dhabi Government, and other ventures listed include a glass industry, an oil products plant, a sugar refinery, pastry factories, bakeries, a macaroni factory and sheet metal fabrication.

The most obvious area for industrial ventures is in the oilfield servicing sector. Here Abu Dhabi businessmen such as Mr Faraj Bin-Hamoodah have taken a lead by forming joint ventures to tender for work from the

state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. Although there are no subsidies, Mr Bin-Hamoodah, who is a member of the Federal National Council (advisory assembly) says that if a local venture is within 10 per cent of the price offered by a wholly-owned foreign competitor it usually gets the contract.

ADNOC is entering the service sector by sponsoring joint ventures requiring a larger capital base than most. These include a port management venture with Lando of Kuwait, a marine services company with Jackson Marine of the United States, a pipelines construction company with Entreprenus GTM of France and a drilling chemicals company with NL Industries of the United States. Because of ADNOC's participation most of the joint ventures have been able to raise finance through syndicated loans at fine rates of interest.

The most recent loan signing was arranged by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi for the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Ports Operating Company. It will use the \$3.9m loan to cover 70 per cent of the cost of three tugs being built at a Japanese shipyard and is in the market for more vessels using its own funds. Without ADNOC's backing it is hard to see how the work which the company is to undertake could have been carried out by a local company. To this extent ADNOC is helping to create the foundation of a national economy built on industry.

J. W.

Foreign investment

Two embassies

British businessmen who visit the United Arab Emirates regularly will have heard that the new subject of agency matters, although the Chamber of Commerce stipulate that once a local may not be taken a foreigner. As in Abu Dhabi, it is difficult to get an agency agreement, advisable to consult the commercial section of the Embassy in Dubai attempting to do so.

No business is carried on without an Abu Dhabi, for application must be the first place to the Diplomatic List as issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the visiting businessman will be surprised to find that it lists two British embassies in the UAE—one in Abu Dhabi and the other in Dubai. Where else in the world does the British Government maintain two embassies and one ambassador? Each embassy has a commercial section, but the ambassador is resident in Abu Dhabi, the federal capital.

The Federation of the United Arab Emirates was formed less than 10 years ago, and the process of integration of seven highly individualistic sheikhdoms has been a lengthy and continuing process. Much has been achieved, sometimes involving rather cosmetic integration as in the case of the Armed Forces, but much remains to be done. The hardest task, and one which has not yet been really attempted, is the integration of vastly differing economies. This mainly concerns Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and to a lesser extent Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah.

The economy of Abu Dhabi is entirely based on the production of oil and related products and is likely to continue being so. Its development has been a phenomenon of the past 15 years.

Dubai, on the other hand, has been the main trading centre of the southern Gulf for the past half century or more, with a strong business tradition centred on several experienced trading families, some of them of Iranian origin, a situation which bears some similarity to that in Kuwait. The production of oil is only an adjunct to the economy of Dubai.

According to a recent agreement, a businessman may now enter the UAE and remain for a month without a visa, if he holds a British passport endorsed, "Holder has the right of abode". This may be extended to a further two months on application.

The appointment of agents and agency law are subjects which should be well studied if only because of differences between agency law in Abu Dhabi on the one hand and agency law in Dubai and the northern emirates on the other. For this reason it is advisable to appoint separate agents for Abu Dhabi and the northern emirates.

In Abu Dhabi, only Abu Dhabi companies holding Abu Dhabi trading licences may be appointed as agents. The agency agreement must be registered with the chamber of commerce. It is difficult to negotiate an agency agreement, and so it is advisable to start with an informal arrangement for a trial period before registering the agreement.

In Dubai, Sharjah and other northern emirates there are no regulations subject of agency matters, although the Chamber of Commerce stipulate that once a local may not be taken a foreigner. As in Abu Dhabi, it is difficult to get an agency agreement, advisable to consult the commercial section of the Embassy in Dubai attempting to do so.

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Tim

Beyond Oil

Dubai's 'Industrial Revolution' points the way

It is no accident that Dubai is leading the way in a policy of alternative development to oil.

Dubai is well placed to do this since it was a thriving commercial centre long before the discovery of oil-shore deposits. The home of prosperous merchants, Dubai alone, was able to surmount the decline and disappearance of the pearling industry when it was faced with Japanese cultured pearls in the thirties. The Dubai merchants, whether they were dealing in pearls or gold, were a thriving community even at a much earlier date, respected right round the Gulf and as far afield as India.

Oil, in any case, has not engulfed the economy as

elsewhere in the Middle East. H.H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Deputy President and Prime Minister of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Dubai saw from the outset that oil would not last forever, and, as a constant preoccupation, has considered alternative routes for the economy. Keeping oil in the ground is one solution, but such static thinking has little appeal in Dubai. There were fresh generations to be considered with expectations far different from those that had obtained in the past. The country needed a diversified, economic base and this, it

was clear, would have to be created.

Dubai has traditionally looked to trade and to the sea. These, therefore had to be the point of departure of industrial expansion. First, there would have to be a deep water port of huge capacity, the relevant industries that could make as much use as possible of raw materials that existed locally or could be economically brought in. From these and other simple expedients, concepts of the industrial future began to arise. The great Jebel Ali project was born.

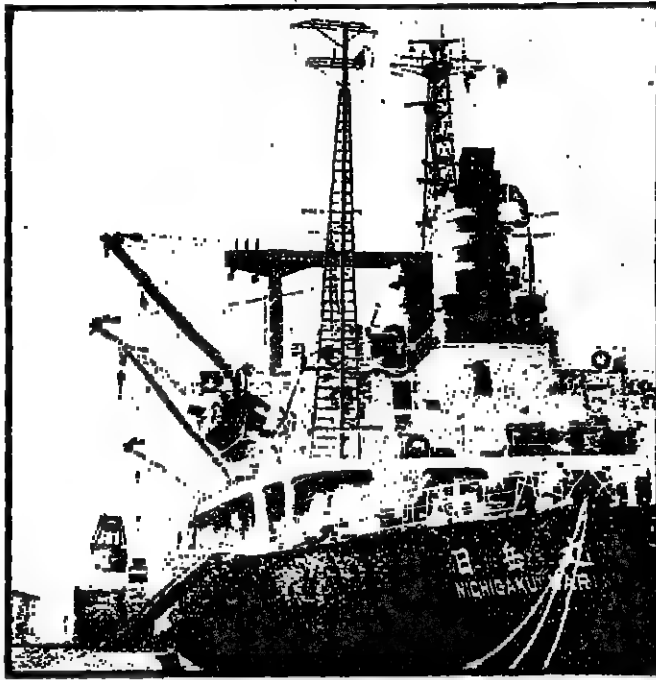
Out of the virgin sand - a year ahead of schedule

On May 20, 1979, at Quay 10, Jebel Ali, the Nishigaku Maru began unloading cement clinker. To the men and crew of the Japanese ship this was mere routine, but for Dubai it was historic. The Jebel Ali Port, deep-water harbour and centerpiece of the multi-billion dollar Jebel Ali project, was in operation. This was, moreover, in operation a year ahead of schedule. This was in business circles from New York to Tokyo, as powerful confirmation of the vision behind what has been called 'the world's most ambitious industrial undertaking'. The fact that Dubai's industrialisation is taking place from the sea and upwards, gives it many characteristics. Chief among these is that theory and practice are put together here as never before. A blank sheet of paper challenge and excitement. Geography, selection of materials, choice of what is to be produced, the interrelation of

trade, industry and industrial technology can be harmonised together and a balance struck.

Energy, perhaps the most vital constituent of the whole plan, serves as an example. At Jebel Ali this is to be drawn from several sources, mostly offshore in the shape of natural gas. Broken down into liquid form at the gas liquefaction plant close to Jebel Ali Port, the gas becomes liquid Propane, Butane and 'Wild Petrol' all to be re-exported as commercial products while the Methane fraction gases that are left will be passed on for use at the Jebel Ali Aluminium Smelter. In their turn they will provide energy for aluminium production and for the desalination plant that is an integral part of it.

So the chain continues: raw materials from near at hand being brought into the industrial mix and joining others from sources half across the world. What results is re-exported in the form of finished products so that a complex web of commerce and industry is created with Jebel Ali at its centre.



The Nishigaku Maru unloading at Quay 10

Before, during - and after oil. Dubai

Dubai is known to have existed as a fishing and pearling community for hundreds of years. From the beginning its geographical position seems to have worked to its advantage. We already see the outlines of modern Dubai emerging around the turn of the century when the British moved to Dubai to avoid its customs duties. Others followed, usually seeking to avoid customs pressures and the like, in their own countries, attracted by the ideas and progressive trading policies of the Ruler at the time. It began to develop as the major commercial centre of the Gulf and as an established part of the sea routes to India and the Far East. Dubai today, a place of glittering buildings and roads that sweep through tunnels and over bridges nevertheless, still bears marks of its mercantile past: the graceful wind towers, for example, acts of a settled and prosperous community which made Dubai a place for shrewd and honest trading long before there was any oil.

And when oil did come, it was not in all-benefiting quantities. Today, Dubai does not claim to be more than sixth in the oil-extractions of the Gulf. Viewed from Dubai, therefore, oil has never been such a huge bonanza. It is truer to say that it has fitted into a prudent housekeeping as a welcome addition, but without going that housekeeping out of all recognition. Even if there had been no oil, it is perfectly possible that the industry rising out of the desert at Jebel Ali, (though perhaps in a different form) would have arisen anyway. The merchants and administrators of Dubai have always found the way to build a sound economy whether this was pearls, shipping or

transactions with third parties involving merchandise that never even touched the shores of the Gulf.

A Dubai banker, watching the first ships unloading at Jebel Ali was heard to remark: 'We are looking at the future - and it works'. In Dubai, the future - the inherent potential for the Sheikhdom, its people and the U.A.E. as a whole - underlies every commercial decision and government commitment.

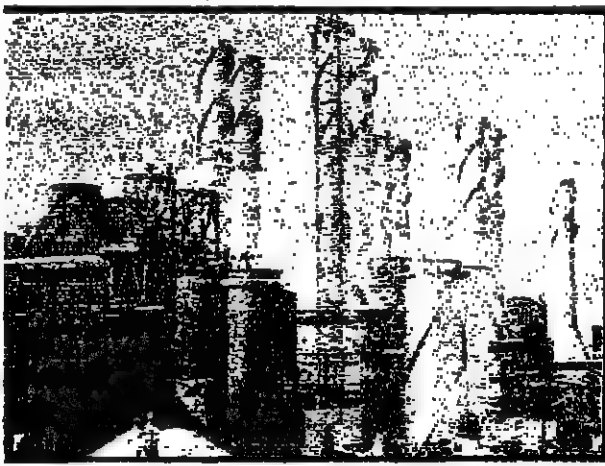
The vision of Jebel Ali is the vision of an economy whose spread across industry, business and trade is wide enough to withstand the fluctuations of world business. Dubai sees no reason why it should be in the grip of vast, impersonal forces that can wither the future of a small country. This is why an analysis of the new undertakings in Dubai and Jebel Ali in particular, show industry being re-processed by further industry and re-emerging as commerce.

The billion dollar Aluminium Smelter at Jebel Ali provides a good example of this. Waste heat from the gas turbines will be taken up by a linked desalination plant and, eventually, to produce as much as 45 million gallons a day of water fit to drink!

Whether it is gas, concrete or water, the principle remains the same. It is the use of high technology to make what is in the ground, in the sea - in the very fabric of the mountains - work to produce commodities that will, in turn, produce trade.

This is complex yet simple - the Dubai style in thinking working and living.

The world as oyster



Aluminium Smelter, Jebel Ali

If you look closely at what is happening in Dubai the term 'Middle East' can be seen in a new and exciting context. Dubai is truly in the middle - the middle of a world where eastern workforces interconnect with western investment, where raw materials from - say, Australia, are fed into a chain of production that uses the expertise of five nations and the machinery of ten more.

An Aluminium smelter, for example, could be established almost anywhere, regardless of climatic conditions, topography, population or any of a hundred variables, provided certain vital conditions are satisfied. Briefly,

these amount to: energy, supply of raw materials, an effective workforce, means to export the finished product, business confidence producing investment, a favourable commercial climate where tariffs, etc. do not constitute an obstacle, technical expertise and stable conditions in general. Dubai, sitting at the crossroads of the world, fulfils all these demands to perfection.

The business planners of Dubai have taken the world of instant communications and interlocking economies as it exists and - there is no better way of expressing it - made that world their oyster!

Flag day in Dubai

If the foreign nationals working in Dubai were to pick a day to fly the flags of their respective countries, a point about internal co-operation would be demonstrated. Jebel Ali it would be even telling. The companies started in establishing themselves or already established as part of new industrialisation road Who's Who of international business and industry. They include Tube Investments, British Petroleum, Rothmans, Union Express and many more. Already in operation are: and Bridge, BICC International and Norcem in addition to most endless list of others from all parts of the world which are involved in the construction.

Partnership with Dubai interests exists on a large scale, and Bridge is in partnership with W. Galadari in building a fabrication plant.

Dubai National Cement is already producing 1.5 million bags of cement per day. BICC International, in a joint venture with Ruler himself, has formed



Workers at the Container terminal.

a company, Ducab, which will produce housewiring and power cables.

Overall, ultimate supervision and responsibility for the vast undertaking is firmly with Dubai. And it is all managed in a simple, unpretentious way. The offices

where decisions involving millions and even billions are made, surprise one by being unassuming to a degree. Dubai supremely justifies the saying that 'Big thinking is never done in big rooms'. The planners and entrepreneurs of Dubai are too involved with the task in

hand to bother about external trappings. It is a style that works its way through to foreigners as well. Office doors are open, conversations are brisk and to the point. This harmony that underlines all undertakings big or small, seems to be taken for granted.

Getting it together

A Financial Consultant asked to comment on the way undertakings like the Jebel Ali project get off the ground described something he had seen from the window of his hotel in the centre of Dubai.

'The day I arrived, I noticed an open space. Not much more than a hole in the ground. Two weeks later, when I left, there was a building half completed. They were up to the second floor....'

By a mysterious intensity of effort results appear faster than you would think possible. What would

still be on the drawing board or merely in the mind somewhere else is already a concrete reality in Dubai.

It's like this at Jebel Ali. From the moment that Sheikh Rashid planted his walking stick firmly in the sand and said: 'Build it here' things began to happen. The speed with which they happened is a matter of record. They were able to dock Britannia at Quay Ten during the Royal visit with construction well over a year ahead of schedule. The financing of Jebel Ali came

first. Bearing in mind that Dubai, in common with the rest of the U.A.E. had been going through something of a recession following the four-fold rise in oil prices and, like the rest of the world, was not immune to inflation, it says a great deal about the confidence of international investment in Dubai that the major financing needed was accomplished smoothly and speedily.

Morgan Grenfell, lead managers for the Eurodollar loan make a significant comment.

'It is a most rewarding fact that a country like Dubai which, until a few years ago, was borrowing in drabs and drabs, was able to be presented to the market as a borrower capable of taking a loan which, even in these days is sizeable by any standards.'

In fact, the financing of the Jebel Ali project is a combination of external loans, and investment from the resources of Dubai itself. This reflects the same principles of thrift and control that characterise the technological planning.

Which comes first - industry or infrastructure?

Michael Tingay, writing on infrastructure in the U.A.E. in the Financial Times last year said: '...the surplus revenue Oil State is a new phenomenon in the world, and it is difficult to predict its future.'

It would be idle to pretend that a country, where the foreign workforce greatly outnumber the indigenous population, does not have infrastructure problems both physical and social.

Jebel Ali has to be seen as a massive onslaught on such problems. Since, in a material sense, things are being built where nothing exists

before, all must be accomplished at a single stroke. But the evidence of development complementary to Jebel Ali is plain to see. New roads have been built. Services in the shape of water supply, housing, communications, parks, afforestation, shopping centres, etc., are springing up everywhere, and in Jebel Ali itself a whole new city is planned. All this is going forward in tandem with the building of plant and factories on the industrial sites and at the deep water port.

In human terms, the chief need is

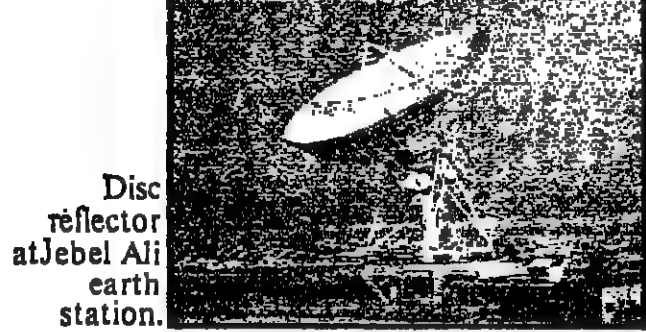
for education and it must be said that the administration in Dubai is obsessed by it.

Jebel Ali is not conceived in terms of money and profit only - more important than these is its role in the future - the future as it concerns the ordinary citizens of the country.

To this end Dubai is planning for an almost totally urban population which will be educated to a standard as high as any in the Arab world. Dubai is not just traders, bankers and businessmen. There are the people of the desert and they

are being encouraged to leave their traditional way of life which, though picturesque, is very basic, and to accept that they belong to a country in step with the twentieth century.

Housing has been provided and all the material means to develop a new life. Education, most important of all, is free, right through from junior grades to university and beyond. There is no reason why the child of nomadic parents should not, in one generation, become a key member of one of the many enterprises now starting at Jebel Ali.



Disc reflector at Jebel Ali earth station.

Earth Station, Jebel Ali

The huge reflecting disc at the top of the hill that is the 'Jebel' in Jebel Ali gives, at one glance, the clue to what is going on here. Cocked like a huge ear to its satellite partner thousands of miles out in space, it symbolises the importance

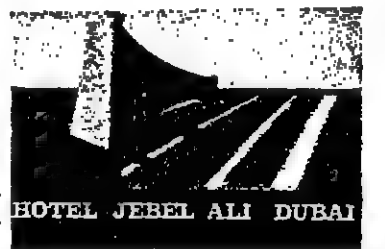
of communications in every part of the undertaking. Inaugurated in 1975, the earth station took the Emirates into the space age. A decade ago there were no more than a handful of calls a day. Now it's normal if there are three thousand!

For space age executives, a grass golf course in the desert

Very little at Jebel Ali has been left unconsidered. From the start it was decided that there should be a hotel, as part of the industrial complex, that would provide luxury living and an opportunity for busy executives to relax on an unprecedented scale. This is the Hotel Jebel Ali. Now nearing completion, it will have a range of facilities that, in a single hotel, may well be unmatched anywhere in the world. Among major attractions there will be a golf course with real grass - the one and only in all Arabia. Three swimming pools linked but divided, will include a children's pool, one for adults, and a high dive pool. And when you are tired of these you can leave them for the pellucid, turquoise-blue sea.

There is to be a yacht marina with shore arrangements that would look good in Cannes or Monte Carlo, and a list of aquatic activities which enthusiasts would find it hard to fault.

Businessmen, whether they like it or not, have time to fill between meetings and appointments. The Jebel Ali Hotel is dedicated to this 'filling' as pleasantly - and as healthily as possible.



HOTEL JEBEL ALI DUBAI

A brand of leadership the business world accepts

There is no doubt that much of the single-minded concentration on the task in hand at Jebel Ali has started from above.

Sheikh Rashid is not a lover of committees, making decisions in a plain and practical way as they are needed. Mention his name at Jebel Ali and you will be left in no doubt that, whatever else it may be, this kind of management is popular with the men on the spot.

Sheikh Rashid takes a detailed

interest in most of what goes on. He himself commissioned the building of a slipway with ultra modern lifting gear, not far from the centre of Dubai. This is something much needed in the Gulf which is crowded with small-tonnage shipping.

The slipway brings virtual automation to ship repair and hull inspection - tasks performed up to now by old-fashioned and laborious methods. The potential savings in time and money for ship owners are great and they have responded by

filling the slipway from the word go.

Sheikh Rashid makes no secret of his pleasure at the success of the venture, and because it has fulfilled so marked a need.

As with most of his policies, the Ruler's concept of the Dubai-Jebel Ali package is clear-cut. A base for free enterprise, a strong currency, minimal government regulations, no foreign exchange controls and only nominal tariffs. And it goes a

lot further than that: no income tax, no capital gains tax, no estate tax, low labour costs and no unions!

It is a unique and inviting prospect stretching into the next century. But is there, perhaps, a tinge of regret for a way of life that is irrevocably past?

A young Dubai graduate comments on this briskly, quoting with considerable aptness: 'The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.'

HOTEL JEBEL ALI *** FORT HATTA HOTEL

Two new Hotels are being built in different parts of the state of Dubai: the five-star Jebel Ali and the Hatta Fort, a hotel so unusual that it defies normal classification.

Although they have been planned, and may be used quite independently of one another, the Jebel Ali and the Hatta Fort will actually provide an integrated experience that is unique.

Jebel Ali is by the sea and the Hatta Fort is in the mountains. Jebel Ali is dedicated to the international executive who has to space out his time between appointments and meetings. The Hatta Fort complements its sister hotel by providing a haven of absolute peace amid remote and thrilling scenery. The Jebel Ali Hotel will

have a real grass golf course; (the one and only in all Arabia), a yacht marina, a three pool complex and a list of aquatic and other activities that challenge comparison with any hotel in the world.

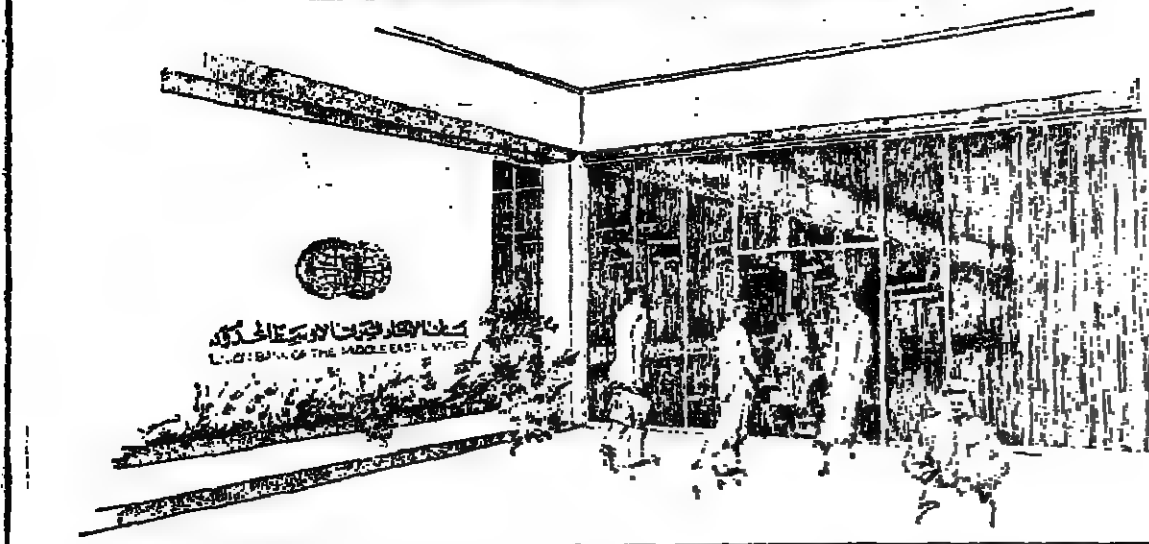
Apart from its swimming pool, beautifully appointed apartments and superb food, the Hatta Fort duplicates the Jebel Ali in very little. Bedouin feasts in authentic surroundings, champagne and caviare as part of a weekend package - these are just a few of the attractions that are projected.

The Hatta Fort will join the effortlessly sophisticated with the simple and traditional, and it will do it in a way that is as real as the grass at Jebel Ali! Both hotels are designed to set new standards in international Hotel service and luxury.

Enquiries are welcome and bookings can be arranged to coincide with the opening dates. Contact

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Extensive Real Estate Holdings in the Emirates.

FACTS AND FIGURES

For the traveller

How to get there

Direct and frequent flights are operated by British Airways and Gulf Air from London to Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Each of these emirates has an international airport, situated nine and two-and-a-half miles from the respective town centres. Services to both places are provided by several other airlines, but they usually involve a transfer at an intermediate airport.

International airports are also operational at Sharjah and Ras al Khaymah, but flights to them are less plentiful than those to the two largest emirates. Domestic flights within the UAE are provided by Gulf Air, which has its headquarters at Bahrain.

Travel documents

Generally speaking, visas are needed to enter the United Arab Emirates. These are obtainable from the embassy's consular section in London on completion of three application forms and the submission of passport, three passport photographs

and the appropriate fee. It is necessary to apply for multi-entry visas if, for example, the visitor intends to fly from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. Such flights are regarded as international, and although the UAE authorities are responsible for all immigration matters, the practice in each emirate can vary.

Business visitors can usually obtain a visa in about 24 hours, but they will need a letter in triplicate from their company. United Kingdom citizens carrying passports which have the endorsement "holder has the right of abode" do not need to obtain a visa. They are usually given permission to stay a month on entry, and this can be extended on application for another two months. Those whose passports show evidence of a previous or intended visit to Israel may require a new passport to enter the UAE.

Because entry regulations are liable to change at short notice, all those intending to visit the emirates are strongly advised to check the latest position with the UAE embassy in London before leaving.

Hotels (see maps)

Abu Dhabi:	Telephone	Telex
1. Al-Ayn Palace	22377	2227
2. Hilton	61800	2122
3. Khalifa Palace	62470	2506
4. Omar Khayam	22101	2820
5. Zakher	41940	2392
6. Ramada	77260	2904

Dubai:	Telephone	Telex
1. Ambassador	451000	45467
2. Astoria	434000	45817
3. Bustan	221261	45460
4. Hilton	470000	46870/1
5. Inter-Continental	221717	45779
6. Marine	434140	467712
7. Metropolitan	440000	46999
8. Oasis	225252/4	45494
9. Sheraton	281111	46710

Local travel

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are linked by frequent air services. Abu Dhabi and Sharjah are also connected in this way, but services are less frequent.

Most Britons travel between the two largest emirates by road; the network is now well developed throughout the federation. Taxis are available in the towns and can be hired on an hourly basis by arrangement; meters are not used in all parts, but guides to fares are available. Taxis outside hotels tend to be more expensive. Modern air-conditioned cars can also be hired, but businessmen wishing to drive themselves are required to obtain a temporary licence from the traffic police.

Currency

Within the emirates the monetary unit is known as the dirham. It is composed of 100 equal units, each known as a fils. Notes are issued in denominations of five, 10, 50, 100 and 1,000. There are one, five, 10, 25 and 50 fils coins and a one dirham coin. The pound is worth 3.49 dirhams.

Climate

In this arid, sub-tropical region, the summers are hot and humid and the winters mild. To Europeans, the most pleasant months are from December to late March, when temperatures extend from 10°C (50°F) to 20°C (68°F). Between May and October temperatures extend from 38°C (100°F) to 50°C (122°F), and humidity has been known to be as high as 100 per cent. At such times, mists form over the landscape, followed by sharp falls in temperature at night.

The worst months are July to September. The shamal from the north cools the atmosphere in summer, but it can carry with it large quantities of dust and sand, producing marked haziness. Such rain as there is tends to fall in the winter, but the annual level is only three to five inches.

Local customs and advice to visitors

Alcohol is strictly forbidden to Muslims, and it is not generally available to visitors except in controlled bars in the larger hotels. British embassy officials should be consulted for advice on social customs and methods of doing business.

Hotel accommodation tends to be heavily booked, particularly in the cooler season, and it is wise to make reservations well in advance. It is prudent to obtain confirmation of bookings by telegram, telex, telephone or letter before leaving Britain. Most hotels add service charges, but in Abu Dhabi hotel staff look for tips of about 10 dirhams for a night and 20 dirhams for a week. Restaurants in the northern emirates add tax as well as a service charge to the bill.

What to wear

In summer open-necked shirts are the rule for men, rather than the exception, even in government offices. But lightweight suits are advised when attending formal meetings, particularly with government officials. Very light but modest dresses are practical for women.

During the winter European-style summer clothing will suffice. Pullovers, cardigans or light raincoats may be needed from January to March—remember that temperatures fall rapidly at

Sweet water, piped from inland, is available in Dubai and Sharjah. Distillation plants provide Abu Dhabi's town supply and many expatriates boil and filter supplies, particularly during the summer.

Hours of business

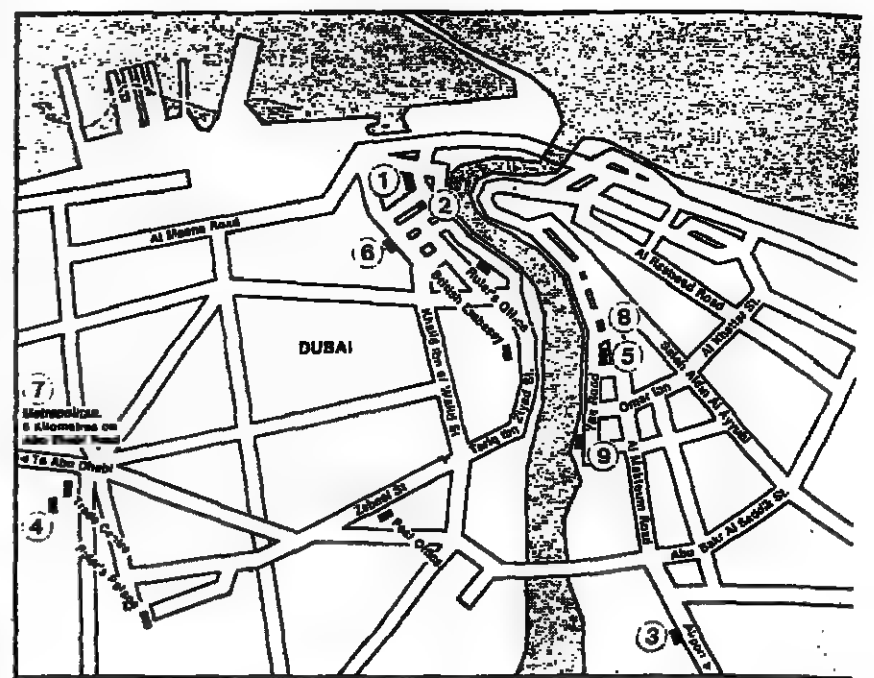
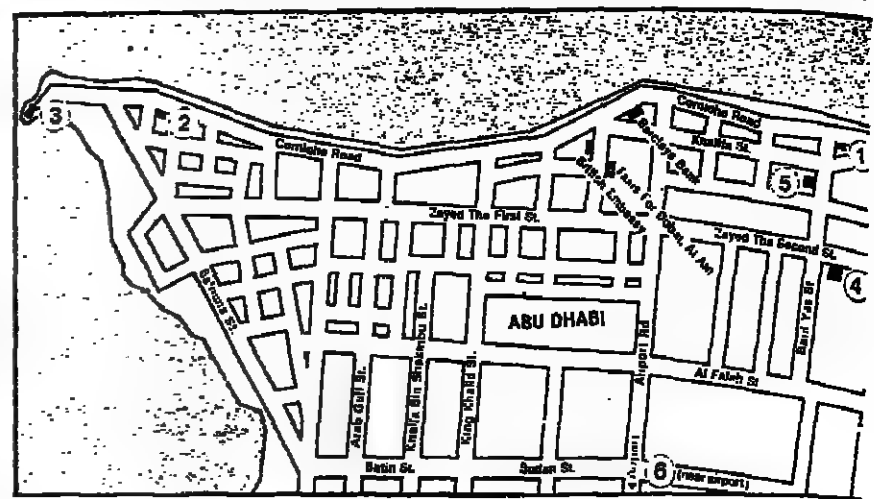
Saturday and Sunday are normal working days, with Friday the day of rest. Private firms and shops in Abu Dhabi are generally open from 8 am until 7.30 pm from Saturday to Thursday in the summer, with a break between 1 and 4 pm. In the winter the break is generally taken from 1 to 3.30 pm, and closing time is at 7 pm. The northern emirates' times are more variable.

Abu Dhabi's banking community operates from 8 am until noon from Saturday to Wednesday, and from 8 am until 11 am on Thursday. In the northern emirates an extra hour, until noon, is worked on Thursdays. In the winter government offices throughout the UAE open from 8 am until 2 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, and from 8 am until noon on Thursday. In the summer the hours are 7 am until 1 pm, with the exception of Thursday, when closing time is 11 am.

The oil companies in Abu Dhabi are active from 7 am until 2 pm Saturday to Wednesday, closing at 1 pm on Thursday. In the northern emirates the hours are generally 7 am until 1.30 pm throughout the week (Fridays excepted).

Electricity

Both three-pin round (15 amp) and flat (13 amp) plugs are used. Bayonet amp fittings are common. In Abu Dhabi the electricity supply is 240/415 volts AC with 50 cycles, and in the northern emirates 220/380 volts AC 50 cycles.



General

The President

His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of the emirate of Abu Dhabi, was born circa 1916. He is the grandson of Shaikh Zayed bin Khalifa—Zayed the Great—and the youngest brother of Shaikh Shakhbuto, who led the country from 1927 to 1966, and was governor of Abu Dhabi's Eastern Province before his brother abdicated in August 1966.

Country

Six of the emirates lie along the coastline of The Gulf. The seventh, Al Fujairah, is on the Gulf of Oman. To the east is Oman itself, to the south and west Saudi Arabia, and to the north-west the peninsula of Qatar.

Much of the 32,280 sq miles of the UAE is barren, with low salt plains along the coast and an extensive desert area in the interior; this leads, in the south, to the uninhabitable Rub al Khali, or Empty Quarter. To the north-east there is Hajjar, a volcanic, mountainous area. The Gulf coastline extends for nearly 400 miles, with shallow seas, coral reefs and a large number of islands, most of which are uninhabited; the UAE's Gulf of Oman shoreline is about 60 miles long.

Main cities

Largest of the emirates is Abu Dhabi, which stretches from the Qatari Peninsula in the west to Dubai in the east. Abu Dhabi town, which serves as the UAE's capital and administrative centre, stands

on a small island linked to the mainland by two road bridges.

About three quarters of the emirate's 360,000 people live there. Al Ayn, the main settlement in the Buraimi Oasis, is expanding rapidly; with its neighbouring villages, it houses about 80,000 people.

Dubai ranks second both in area and population (about 300,000). Its port serves as one of the main points of entry for goods arriving both for the UAE and for the interior of the Sultanate of Oman. It is regarded as the federation's main commercial centre, and like Abu Dhabi it has an international airport.

History

The United Arab Emirates came into being as an independent state on December 2, 1971. It was a grouping of the former Trucial States of Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Al Fujairah, Dubai, Sharjah and Umm al-Qaywayn. These six became seven in February 1972, when Ras al Khaymah joined the federation.

The Portuguese were active in the Gulf at the beginning of the sixteenth century, but were eventually driven out by Britain's East India Company. The next two hundred years or so were characterised by colonial battles between British, French and Dutch interests.

With Britain finally consolidating its position at the beginning of the nineteenth century, a peace treaty with local rulers in 1820 was the first of a series of agreements, covering the locally

eradication of such practices as slave and arms trade by the way Britain and the shai were firmly linked.

When British force withdrew from the 1971, Britain's respo for the Trucial Sa fence and foreign ceased, and the fe came into being.

Population

According to official estimates made at the 1978, more than people live in the emirates. Abu Dhabi about 360,000, of wh sibly 15,000 are Eur large numbers of Palestinians. Northern and people of other allies have made homes there. Abu quarters of the po are non-national, a outnumber women t seven to three. Th half a million in the northern emi Islam is the predi gion, but there is a freedom of worship

Shopping

Modern department exist in Abu Dhab and Sharjah, suppl extensive range of u consumer goods. B visitors find the tr Arab suks particu cinating. These t both Dubai and which spent nearl development and buil a British design, on most beautiful buil the Middle East as For shopping th "Business hours".

Language

Arabic is the offi gage, but English spoken among busi Interpreters are locally.

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Industry and politics

Government

UAE's constitution is the highest of the Supreme Council, which consists of the rulers of the emirates. Its main tasks are general policy, federal Acts, and resident and vice. The consent of at least two members, including one from Abu Dhabi, is required for important decisions.

on is drawn up by the Council. This body is appointed by the ruler of each emirate. Its members are chosen by the ruler of each emirate. The Council is the highest authority in the UAE. It is responsible for the general policy, federal Acts, and resident and vice. The consent of at least two members, including one from Abu Dhabi, is required for important decisions.

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Interior Minister Shaikh Mubarak bin Mohammed

Minister of Health Hamad bin Mohammed al Madfa. Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman al Madfa. Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Saif al Jarwan. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mana Said al Otaiba. Minister of Planning Said Ghobash. Minister of Public Works and Housing Mohammed Khalifa al Kindi. Minister of Water and Electricity Humaid Nasser al Owais. Minister of State Shaikh Ahmed Sultan al Qasbi. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah. Minister of State for Internal Affairs Hamouda bin Ali. Minister of State for Supreme Council Affairs Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Humaid al Qassimi.

Embassies

UAE Embassy in London: 30 Prince's Gate SW7 1PT. Telephone 01-581 1281. Ambassador: Said Mohammed al-Fajr. Minister: Mirza Hussein al-Sayegh. Counsellor (Consular Affairs): Nabil Hijazi. First Secretaries: Hussein Saleh Hussein (Finance and Administration); Saif al Otaiba (Consular Affairs); and Abdul Aziz Merza Mohammed Amin (Commercial Affairs). British Embassy in Abu Dhabi: PO Box 248, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Telephone 25600. Ambassador: David A. Roberts. First Secretary: Head of Chancery and Consul: D. R. MacLennan. Communications: W. C. Roddicks (Commercial), D. R. Spedding, and R. L. Owen. British Consulate in Dubai: PO Box 65, Dubai, UAE. Telephone 431070. Consul-General and Counsellor: D. K. Haskell. First Secretary (Commercial) and Consul: G. M. Galloway. Second Secretaries: B. Hananah (Commercial), R. M. Publicover and R. E. D. Deffe (and Vice-Consul).

The economy

The oil sector provides almost three quarters of the UAE's gross domestic product. Of the seven states, Abu Dhabi produces about four fifths of the oil and Dubai much of the rest. Total oil revenues for 1979 are estimated at \$12,500m compared with \$8,600m in 1978 and \$9,100m in 1977 (at roughly the same volume of sales as in 1979) reflecting the massive price increase imposed last year. A considerable rise in capital spending should take place in the current financial year, according to the draft federal budget announced in December by Shaikh Rashid Prime Minister of the UAE and the Ruler of Dubai. The draft budget provides for total expenditure of 11,230m dirhams (\$2,960m), against 9,700m dirhams (\$2,350m) in 1979. Within this figure, capital spending in the latest budget is given as 1,500m dirhams (\$394m) from 1,100m dirhams (\$290m) in 1979. Recurrent expenditure is to rise to 8,900m dirhams (\$2,340m) from the previous 7,800m dirhams (\$2,050m). The federation has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world at an estimated \$16,000 in 1978.

Banking

More than 20 banks operate in the UAE, but business is dominated by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and Khalij Commercial Bank. The Offshore Banking Unit (OBU), established in 1976, has five licences: American Express International Banking Corp., Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Bank of Nova Scotia, and Banco Urquijo.

Aluminium

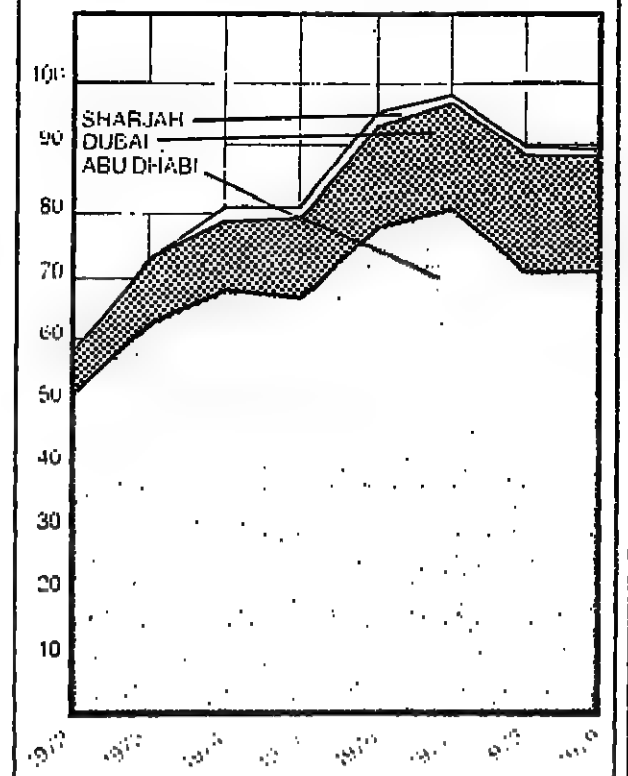
The Dubai aluminium smelter is a \$1,400m project nearing completion at Jibal Al. It is a smelter and desalination (fresh water making) plant combined. Dubai Aluminium (Dubai), which controls the smelter, is owned 80 per cent by the Dubai Government and 20 per cent by a Grand Cayman company, Alusmeiter Holdings.

Oil and gas

It was in 1960 that oil deposits were discovered in the region which now forms the UAE. The initial find, west of Abu Dhabi city, was followed by discoveries in Dubai and offshore in the Gulf. Later, Sharjah became an oil producer and, in 1978, Ras al Khaymah. The UAE ranks in eighth position in the production league of Opec's 13 member countries with an output of 688 million barrels in 1979, nearly 100 million barrels more than Britain obtained from the North Sea.

Abu Dhabi accounts for 80 per cent of UAE's total oil production. Operations are controlled by the Government through the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) which has 60 per cent holdings in the two major producers—the Abu Dhabi Marine Areas Operating Co (ADMA-OPCO) and the Abu Dhabi Co for Onshore Petroleum Operations (ADCO). Known reserves in the emirates are estimated to be sufficient for at least 30 to 40 years at current rates of production.

Total crude petroleum production million metric ton



National income and gross domestic product (dirhams m)

	1976	1977	1978
National income—market prices	37,391	47,383	45,867
Comprising:			
Workers' wages and salaries (domestic)	10,571	11,269	12,609
Operating surplus	31,097	40,582	37,205
Workers' wages and salaries (from abroad)	-2,804	-3,240	-3,592
Property and entrepreneurial income (from abroad)	-1,226	-625	245
Indirect taxes	-246	-623	-800
Gross domestic product—market prices	43,637	54,443	53,338
Comprising by sectors:			
Agriculture and fishing	367	445	467
Petroleum	29,648	32,628	30,502
Manufacturing industries	593	1,853	2,400
Electricity, gas and water	345	486	624
Construction	3,741	5,735	5,435
Wholesale and retail trades, restaurants, hotels	2,953	4,590	4,612
Transport, storage and communications	1,820	2,828	2,732
Other	4,172	6,080	6,565

Source: United Nations statistics

Total supply and demand (dirhams m)

	1976	1977	1978
Gross domestic product at market prices	43,637	54,443	53,338
Imports of goods and services	14,977	21,735	22,224
Total supply	58,614	76,178	75,562
Export of goods and services	35,269	40,186	38,280
Consumption			
— Private	5,108	10,418	11,601
— Public	4,836	8,369	7,208
Gross fixed capital investment	12,559	18,363	18,364
Change in stock	842	842	129
Total demand	58,614	76,178	75,562

Source: United Nations statistics

United Arab Emirates' exports to Britain (£m)

	1976	1979
Crude petroleum	219.65	191.18
Machinery	0.88	17.21
Silver	0.81	14.28
Vegetables and fruit	0.68	0.11
Special commodities and special transactions	37.79	3.37
Other goods	2.17	10.92
Total	270.57	237.07

British Exports to UAE

	1976	1979
Machinery and transport	210.65	253.05
Including:		
Power generating equipment	(40.64)	(44.05)
Electrical machinery	(39.70)	(57.33)
Road vehicles	(20.23)	(27.64)
Manufactured goods	104.29	106.25
Including:		
Iron and steel	(19.52)	(24.41)
Chemicals	33.58	38.96
Food and live animals	14.46	13.30
Furniture	6.76	9.11
Scientific instruments	8.70	9.37
Beverages	4.27	4.45
Cigarettes	4.80	7.73
Other goods	48.05	45.98
Total	435.34	488.20

Overseas trade (\$US m)

Country	1977	1978	1979 Jan-Nov
Sources of UAE's imports:			
Britain	921	957	1,057
Japan	978	986	1,000
United States	575	647	570
West Germany	458	561	468
France	175	251	331
Italy	186	201	298
Netherlands	155	253	119
Saudi Arabia	123	74	n/a
India	212	159	n/a
Rest of the World	1,373	1,296	n/a
Total	5,186	5,385	n/a
Markets for UAE's exports:			
Japan	2,508	2,292	4,519
United States	1,583	1,041	1,751
France	1,179	1,189	994
West Germany	607	311	919
Netherlands	632	632	403
Britain	546	450	417
Spain	326	175	515
Iran	126	147	n/a
Netherlands Antilles	862	878	n/a
Rest of the world	1,442	1,634	n/a
Total	9,601	9,049	11,712

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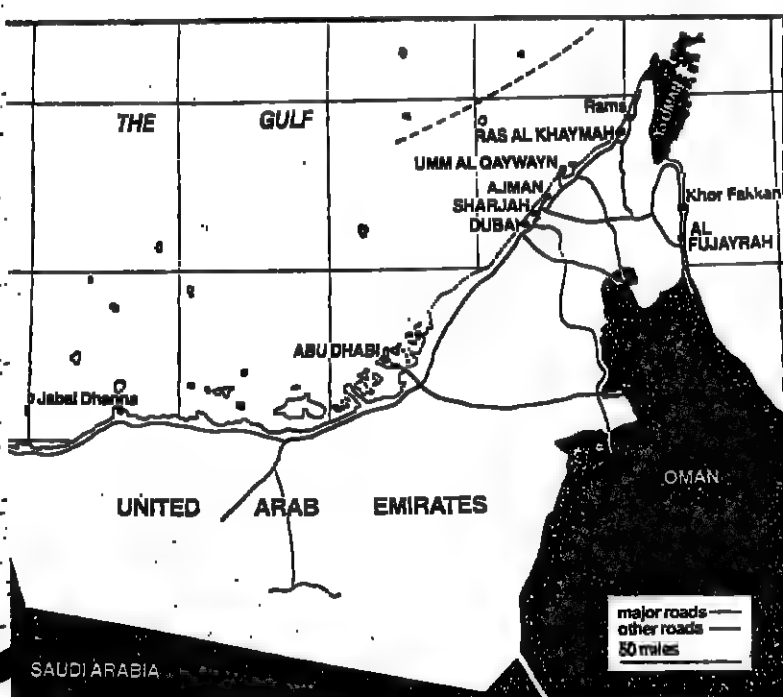


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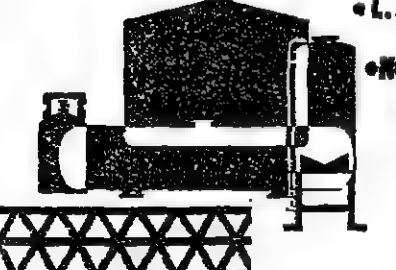
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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Agriculture

Large sums invested in experimental schemes

Few parts of the world outside the polar regions would appear to have as little agricultural potential as the United Arab Emirates, consisting as they do almost entirely of sand and salt flats. There are only three regions within the emirates where agriculture is possible as the result of the natural presence of fresh water, and these amount to the most to only 5 per cent of the total area.

The largest and most important is the emirate of Ras al Khaymah, the northernmost of the seven emirates of the UAE, which lies along the edge of the Hajar mountains. The precipitation over these mountains, particularly in winter, is considerably greater than elsewhere in the region, and enables the land at the foot of the mountains to be irrigated.

To the south of Ras al Khaymah is the Buraimi group of oases, which also derive their water from the Hajar mountains. The majority of these oases lie within Abu Dhabi, a part of the UAE, and the remainder in Oman.

Finally there is the Liwa, a phenomenon found in the high dunes of the south of Abu Dhabi towards the border with Saudi Arabia. This is a group of oases scattered over a large area, and consisting almost entirely of date groves tended seasonally by the Beduin.

The principal limitation on agriculture is, of course, the availability of water. In Ras al Khaymah irrigation is obtained from wells, while in the Buraimi oases it is obtained largely by the *fala* system.

This system was introduced into the region many centuries ago by the Persians, who devised a method of tapping the water table at the edge of the Hajar range, and conducting the water by a series of subterranean channels to the area to be cultivated, where it was brought to the surface.

This has proved to be a most efficient system, as little water is lost by evaporation, and there is an almost constant and unvarying flow.

Now there are plans for dams in the wadi beds to hold flood water from the mountains which would otherwise flow wastefully into the sea. In the coastal regions desalination of seawater is used to get fresh water, but this is expensive for irrigation purposes.

The government experimental farm at Diddaga in Ras al Khaymah, which was started over 20 years ago, is the oldest and largest agricultural centre in the UAE. Here there are nearly 400 acres of crops, and in the

winter large quantities of vegetables are grown, which are marketed throughout the emirates.

There is also a herd of Friesian cattle and an agricultural school. Experiments are carried out with various types of livestock including goats, and with fruit and vegetables. Considerable documents are offered to local farmers to improve their methods and stay on the land, but a steady drift continues to more lucrative occupations in the town.

Much progress has been made in agriculture at Al Ayn in the Buraimi oases, largely because of the enthusiasm and interest of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the UAE. More winter wheat, vegetables and fruit are being grown, but problems are looming up.

Reserves of ground water are being used on an ever-

increasing scale, even though the introduction of drip-irrigation has brought about a 75 per cent saving over the traditional flood irrigation method. Salinity has risen drastically. Nevertheless, in spite of difficulties, production of vegetables has reached 55,000 tons a year.

Large sums of money have been invested in experimental agriculture. The best known of these schemes is on Sadiyet island, adjacent to Abu Dhabi town where the Arab Lands Research Station was established and was until recently, run by the University of Arizona.

Here vegetables are grown by intensive methods in glasshouses, cooled by pumping air through a curtain of water. The results are impressive, and by this method vegetables can be grown throughout the year

under shelter, but the cost is considerable.

Other experimental schemes are run at Al Ayn by the French and Japanese. There is a battery chicken farm in Sharjah, and plans exist for a vast poultry farm at Al Ayn.

The UAE now intends to increase greatly the areas of cultivable land. This will involve the construction of dams in the eastern and northern mountains, the sinking of new wells, bringing in foreign experts, and taking part in regional and international organizations for developing arid land with new technology.

The federation is to participate in a 1980 pan-Arab company to be established in Dubai for promoting agro-industrial investment, after a decision by the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Dubai. Sheikh Rashid bin

Said al Maktum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has contributed first £4m of capital.

A multi-million-pound water resources survey being undertaken in Damascus-based Centre for Arid Zone Dry Lands, The Ministry of Agriculture which supervises water resources, has decided to accelerate on American design dams in two areas: Hajar mountains.

Advice on desert irrigation is being sought from where the Japanese system of irrigation, as the *qanat* system, was introduced into Iran in the Ahwaz area. It is being given similar attention.

Tim

Fishing

Many find driving taxis far more profitable

It is perhaps somewhat ironic that before the discovery of oil fishing, both for fish and pearls, was one of the few basic occupations of the inhabitants of the Trucial Coast. The development of the cultured pearl industry in Japan in the 1930s all but killed pearling throughout the Gulf. Fishing, as such, continued as the few thousand Arabs who populated this arid and poverty-stricken part of the world.

In recent years, since the discovery of oil, fishing has been a depressed occupation. The federal Government has a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but the emphasis is definitely on agriculture, which ranks high in the interests of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi. Agriculture and Fisheries accounted for less than 1 per cent of the GDP

of the UAE in 1978.

There are several reasons why fisheries should be such a flagging industry in the UAE at present. The wealth of the rapidly-growing cities, principally Abu Dhabi and Dubai, has attracted the local fishing communities as much as it has the vast numbers of immigrants, both Arab and non-Arab, who have swarmed into the emirates in the past 10 years. The local inhabitants will not be found on the building sites, but they will be found driving taxis, which is a far more profitable pastime than fishing.

The fate of fishing industries further north in the Gulf has not passed unnoticed by the Government of the UAE. The Fisheries Company in Bahrain, which depended almost entirely on its shrimp fleet of 17 trawlers, went into liquidation in 1979 as a result of the almost total disappearance of the shrimps. Its trawlers have been sold to a company in Hong Kong, and a local businessman has bought the processing plants onshore.

The same fate would have befallen the Fisheries Company in Qatar had not the Government come to its rescue with heavy subsidization. In Kuwait the Fisheries Company has survived as it has spread its activities far and wide outside the Gulf. Another reason for hesitation has been the survey conducted by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) into the fisheries potential of the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The results of this survey, spread over several years, have only recently been published.

The fisheries survey by FAO and UNDP undertaken on behalf of Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi

Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman, and its recommendations have now been submitted to the governments of each of these states. Rather surprisingly, the conclusions of the survey are considerably more encouraging than might have been expected in view of the experiences of the fisheries companies in Bahrain and Qatar.

According to the survey's findings, fish production in the Gulf could be doubled because of the enormous potential stocks in these waters.

Follow-up work on the project is now being done by the committee of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC) of the FAO. Three international experts—a shrimp biologist, a fishery economist and a master fisherman—have been appointed to carry out the recommendations of the survey. Potential fish stocks in Gulf waters have been

estimated at 220,000 tonnes a year, while the commercially-valuable stocks have been reckoned at 140,000 tonnes a year. Present catches of commercially-valuable varieties are only 50,000 tonnes. Gulf waters could yield some 90,000 tonnes, and Gulf of Oman 20,000 tonnes of demersal fish a year. One of the most significant findings in the survey is the existence of huge quantities of lantern fish in the Gulf of Oman.

The survey has estimated that the Gulf of Oman has from 100,000 to one million tonnes of this variety.

What then is the future for the fisheries in the UAE? With a tenfold increase in population in the last decade the demand for fish is far greater than the available supply in the UAE. It is, therefore, very expensive. However, as the standard of living rises so does the demand for a great variety of food, including

fish. It is probably in the Gulf of Oman that the demand for fish is likely to go ahead. Of the two emirates which border the Gulf of Oman, Al Fujairah has no oil refineries and Sharjah only very limited and dwindling oil revenues.

The incentive to develop a fisheries industry therefore is there. Another important factor is the completion of an all-weather tar-mac road through the Hajar mountains connecting the emirates bordering the Gulf of Oman with the big centres of population in the southern shores of the Gulf.

The emirate of Al Fujairah, which only has a coastline on the Gulf of Oman, has made more serious efforts to develop a fisheries industry than any other of the emirates in recent years. An agreement does the demand for a great variety of food, including Fisheries of Japan for a

joint fishing and venture, according to the Japanese, would take eight ton estimated daily catch, one ton of which to be sold locally. The agreement lasted very few years before it collapsed.

Sharjah has recently signed a fisheries agreement with the UAE, which is a success and it closes only six months prior to the smallest emirate, Ajman and Umm al-Qaywayn. The latter two have produced plans for the meat on fisheries but they have been greased beyond the

When the wells run dry

continued from page 11

Emirates Telecommunications Corporation, which runs the telex and telephone services, are Abu Dhabi dominated although the Minister of Communications, Mohammed Said al Mulla, is from the northern emirates.

When plans were announced recently to seek consultants for a 2,000 MW power station on the Abu Dhabi-Dubai border it was quickly made clear to diplomats, seeking information about the \$1,500m projects aimed for the mid-1980s, that it would be handled by the Abu Dhabi Department of Water and Electricity rather than the federal ministry.

This is despite the fact that the intention is to tie the station into a national electricity grid.

There are many observers who fail to see the Abu Dhabi-Dubai dichotomy as being important or a subject for concern. A senior Pakistani banker who has been in the UAE for more than 10 years and heads the regional office of his bank in Abu Dhabi, says: "1980 should be a good year for people in business. The Government is now really cautious and Abu Dhabi and Dubai have now agreed to put 50 per cent of their oil revenues with the Central Bank. It is particularly pleasing that the Government is going to spend about \$1,000m next year on agriculture. Every day the UAE is integrating and moving

towards being a real federation. If you look in the newspapers you see that every day one action or another has been taken by the rulers."

For the emirates' economy what is important is a proposal for the Central Bank to control 1,000m dirhams (\$267.3m) in government funds which will be used to support property. What this actually means is that the Central Bank will refinance loans made by 54 commercial banks to citizens for property development. Since 1977, when two banks closed their doors, few banks have added to their property portfolios.

Most of the loans made in the mid-1970s are outstanding and, although the banks control the buildings, taking rent against the unpaid borrowing and interest charges, a large quantity of dirhams are locked in these property portfolios. Bankers believe that once the Central Bank has stepped in money will be available for financing more productive ventures.

This remains something of a hope. The UAE Development Bank, based in Abu Dhabi, has been largely moribund since its formation in 1974 despite having as its chairman the influential Chamberlain of the Presidential Court, Sheikh Surour bin-Mohammad. Indeed, from billboards around the northern emirates it is obvious that property development rather than agricultural devel-

opment has been the main lending activity by the bank, especially in Umm al-Qaywayn, where the bank has much unwanted property on its books. It development is to reach the remote corners of the emirates, the UAE probably needs to act on recommendations by the International Monetary Fund and establish more specialized banks such as an industrial and an agricultural bank to stimulate depressed areas of the economy.

The prospects of more money from the federation or specialized institutions is probably unlikely to make much impact in the foreseeable future. Some businessmen would like to see the large local banks, such as the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and the National Bank of Dubai, doing more with their dirham deposits. There is some evidence that this is happening.

From the offshore banking enclave in Bahrain has come the use of the roll-over credit; some local businesses have been able to convert their overdrafts into fixed rate medium-term loans in dirhams; larger corporate entities such as the Emirates Telecommunications Corporation are in talks with their bankers about refinancing certain dollar loans in dirhams. This has an importance since dollar interest rates are hovering around 20 per cent while the dirham rate for overdrafts is about 14 per cent.

Trade patterns show that of the UAE's total imports in 1979, about \$4,000m (of the \$6,000m), was handled by Dubai. Of Dubai's total about 30 per cent were re-exported by ships and coastal traffic, mainly to Iran. The traditional show trade in smuggled items has thrived since the revolution in Iran and the consequent disruption of Iran's import trade.

Where imports have been growing is at the Abu Dhabi end of the emirates because of capital goods imported in connection with the industrial zone at Ruwais and oil field services both offshore and onshore. The United Kingdom earned £159,500,000 from Abu Dhabi in 1979, £305,200,000 from Dubai and £23,500,000 from the other emirates. The total of £488,200,000 was 12 per cent more than 1978. The value of the UAE market to the United Kingdom was worth more than United Kingdom exports to the whole of India. After Saudi Arabia the UAE was the most profitable market for United Kingdom exports to the Middle East in 1979 and because of traditional links with Britain the United Kingdom is in the

top three of suppliers with Japan and the United States.

To businessmen it is projects rather than trade which produce the profits. This where Abu Dhabi has taken the lead. Only a handful of major projects are on the drawing boards for 1980 in Dubai—underpasses for the city and a hospital—but Abu Dhabi is continuing to put work out to tender. On the government side there are a few practice building projects including a tourist tower, Abu Dhabi's answer to the Post Office tower in London, and a new ministry of foreign affairs.

The Department of Water and Electricity envisages awarding a 120 MW power station for Umm al-Nar island as well as a continuing programme of distribution and house connections. The United Kingdom-UAE joint venture Al Saleem Boris has recently been awarded a \$48m contract for a trunk water pipeline between Abu Dhabi and the oasis city of Al Ayn with an associated reservoirs contract going to the Korean company Hyundai at \$35m.

Other building projects include a pair of prisons for Abu Dhabi and Al Ayn and to complete Abu Dhabi's Corniche skyline a prestige building for the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab counterpart to the IMF which is based in Abu Dhabi. Even where a contract goes Korean, as in the case of the reservoirs, European suppliers often get cut in.

Hyundai is talking at present to three nominated groups of manufacturers for the pumps required, including two from the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom's "most favoured nation" position has recently been eroded although most specifications on government work are written by United Kingdom consultants and are weighted towards United Kingdom concerns. The French have made a high push in the UAE and President Mitterrand's visit to Abu Dhabi in early March was linked to a number of commercial initiatives. This coincided with the award of a valuable contract for telemetry (measuring equipment) to the French company Maira at \$20,800,000 when a United Kingdom company Ferranti was lowest bidder at \$19,800,000.

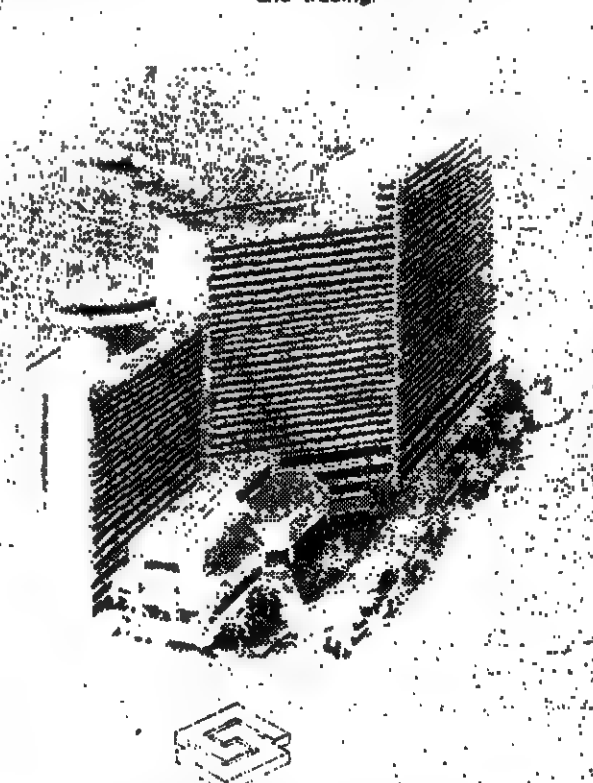
Trade officials tend to make much of these preferential awards but businessmen point out that often where a contract goes to one country other countries get "cut in" as subcontractors.

John Whelan

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Education

Teaching system full, free
and for all

Thirty years ago there were no schools in any of the seven shajhadoms which now form the United Arab Emirates. The only form of regular teaching was instruction in the Koran given to groups of boys.

Today there is a full, free educational system available to all, and culminating in the university which has more than 1,700 students. Only a very small number of children in remote areas do not attend full-time school in the primary grade from the ages of six to twelve.

It is a remarkable achievement, not only made possible but also made necessary by the oil wealth of the federation.

In considering the lack of educational facilities in the early 1950s the conditions then prevailing must be borne in mind: small, scattered communities where the way of life had remained almost unchanged for centuries. Now the development of the oil industry has vastly increased the population and bringing in expatriate work-

ers from many parts of the world; and has introduced new dangers and alien ways of thought, and utterly changed the face of life at least in the cities.

When the Trucial States Council was set up in 1952 the first concerted effort was made to introduce education in the modern sense. A school for 450 boys opened in Sharjah the following year. Later came others in Ras al Khaymah and Abu Dhabi, and in Khaymah (in Sharjah). In 1955 Sheikh Rashid, Ruler of Dubai, turned his palace into an elementary school.

Girls' education then came into the picture. By 1964 there were 31 schools apart from those in Abu Dhabi, and 12 of the 31 were for girls, with an attendance of more than 2,000. Schoolboys at that time numbered almost 5,000.

In 1971 education was made compulsory. During that academic year there were 31,342 pupils in the schools and another 1,500 in higher education or technical training. From then on the basic education structure is six years of primary education for ages six to 12

and massively. Between 1972 and 1979 the number of pupils in UAE schools rose by 297 per cent.

The Ministry of Education's budget for 1979 was 247.2m dirhams, of which more than half was for development. In the last budget announced in September 1979 the figure was 1,212m dirhams. Development allocations, however, have been reduced proportionally, as the basic education is now completed. The total educational outlay in 1979 represented about 121 per cent of the state's whole budget.

After the initial momentous effort to provide a network of schooling to meet at least minimum needs and standards, the Ministry of Education started as a second phase a programme to renew all the older school buildings, change and improve curricula, and provide refresher courses and additional training for teachers. The improvement of buildings has been continuing for more than six years, and the revisions in curricula for four years.

As elsewhere in Arabia, the basic education structure is six years of primary education for ages six to 12

(this is the part which is compulsory in the UAE), followed by three years in a preparatory school, with a further three years of secondary education in general subjects or technical training. The UAE also provides free kindergarten teaching for the four and five-year-olds.

At the other end of the academic scale is the UAE University which opened in 1977 with 500 students. During the present academic year the number is 1,768, of whom 366 are expatriates. About one third of the students are women, though in kindergarten and primary grades the balance in numbers between boys and girls is almost equal.

The university at present has colleges for arts, science, education, politics and administration, and law and Sharia (Islamic) teachings. Within a year engineering will be added, and a medical faculty is planned.

This university is the UAE's special pride and joy, and no money is spared. All students receive full board, transportation, books and equipment, plus a grant of 500 dirhams a month. In addition 20 per cent of the country's secondary school-leavers are sent, at government expense, to study at foreign universities, where about 130 graduated last year. In 1978 4m dirhams was allocated for buying a building as a hostel for girl students in Cairo, and this is now in use.

To attempt to make up for the absence of regular education of the older generations there is a network of literary and adult education centres in all seven emirates. They number more than 100, about three quarters for men and one quarter for women. They are attended by about 10,000 people.

Parents also get grants to encourage them to send their children to school. Forty dirhams a month is paid for each child at the primary stage, and this is increased as the child advances to the higher grades. These payments are to help towards the maintenance of the children, all books, transport and school uniform being free.

Each primary school child, it is estimated, costs the Government about 10,300 dirhams a year, and by the time students are in some branches of specialized secondary education—for example, agriculture—the cost to the state may be six times that amount.

In the private sector there are 56 private schools in four of the states: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras al Khaymah. About a quarter of these are for Arabs, and the rest for expatriate children of various nationalities: British (who have the largest number of schools), Indian, Pakistani, American, French, Norwegian, Dutch and German.

Penelope Turing

Construction

Market picks
up again

It is now two years since the construction boom came to an end in the United Arab Emirates. There followed a period of stagnation, and now the market has begun to pick up again, but every day realizes that the boom conditions will never be repeated.

The market is now far more competitive and selective. The Koreans have moved in a big way, and have already won some large contracts. The construction of prestige buildings in the towns has almost come to an end. The Government of Abu Dhabi has ended the construction of large office blocks as the supply now exceeds demand.

In a few years the demand for hotel accommodation has swung from one extreme to the other. No longer do businessmen have to queue at reception desks to wheedle for accommodation. Now hotels vie with each other to give discounts and taxi drivers get commissions from hotels for taking fares to particular hotels. This is partly because of the construction of many luxury hotels, but also because of a drop in the number of visiting businessmen since the boom.

In Abu Dhabi there will be fewer building starts in 1980 than at any time since the development of the emirate began. Prestige projects in Abu Dhabi town have almost ceased, although work on a new 17.3m traffic police headquarters should begin soon. Hopes are now centred on the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the federal defence forces and the electricity industry.

It is worth while to pause and look at how the construction industry has developed in Kuwait after the first construction boom, when considering the future scope of the construction industry in Abu Dhabi, as there are many similarities between the two. Both are in a sense city states as their populations are heavily concentrated in their respective capitals. Both have vastly and rapidly expanded populations, in which immigrants outnumber the indigenous populations, and in the case of Abu Dhabi greatly so. In both cases the vast revenues derived from the production of oil are really more than the governments know what to do with.

The one major difference is that while Kuwait has apparently turned its face on diversification of its economy by major industrial development, Abu Dhabi is about to embark on the development of an industrial zone at Ruwais.

In Kuwait a vast programme of lower income housing construction has been under way in the past few years, and huge housing estates have been springing up around Kuwait city. In Abu Dhabi one has only to look behind the facades of the tall modern buildings to see the jumble of makeshift housing that has arisen in a haphazard way to house the teeming thousands of immigrants, largely Pakistanis. Yet this problem of makeshift housing hardly merits a mention when the subject of the future of the construction industry in Abu Dhabi is discussed.

As the oil wealth percolates through the population

and living standards and expectations rise, so will the pressures increase for better housing, roads, water supply and sewerage. These are problems that are yet to be tackled in Abu Dhabi, and where there is much scope for the construction industry. Already contracts worth about £2.8m have been awarded for housing and a residential-commercial project in Al Ain.

The traffic congestion in Kuwait city, in which there appears to be one car for every head of population, all on the road at the same time, is notorious. This has developed in spite of a four-lane dual-carriageway construction programme. Now a big flyover is under way to ease traffic congestion. On a smaller scale the same problems are building up in Abu Dhabi, which will have to resort to much the same solutions as have been adopted in Kuwait.

The hopes of major construction firms in Abu Dhabi are directed towards the planned industrial zone at Ruwais in the desert 100km west of Abu Dhabi town. There development is just beginning with all the scope for port and road construction, industrial complexes based on the petrochemical industry, housing, power stations, fresh water supply and sewerage.

In Dubai competition is less than in Abu Dhabi, and to a degree is under challenge from Sharjah only 10 miles away. The vying for hotel custom and port competition is a good example of this. Industrialization is well ahead of Abu Dhabi and all the major projects at Jebel Ali are either completed or near completion. As in Abu Dhabi almost all the major prestige projects have been completed, but there is still scope for lower income housing, social welfare construction projects and road construction.

However, in Dubai enterprise and innovation are never lacking, and many construction firms there have spread their activities to other parts of the Arab world, even as far as Jordan. A good example of construction enterprise in Dubai is the new leisure centre which among its varied activities includes ice skating, which has proved immensely popular among the Arab youth, and has supplied a much-needed social requirement. This example has been followed in Kuwait, which has separate ice rinks for each sex. The Gulf states are great emulators of new ideas and before long each one will have its leisure centre and ice rinks in all probability constructed by firms operating from Dubai.

In the other northern emirates much remains to be done in development such as roads, ports, housing, electricity and water supply and sewerage, schools, clinics and hospitals, but all this is dependent on federal financing and the generosity of the oil-rich emirates. Property development is a politically sensitive issue in the UAE as it is one of the principal means of transferring wealth to the local population. Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have passed laws to the effect that only UAE nationals can own land.

Tim Owen

Health

Local clinics centres of
preventive medicine

On the broad dual carriage-way which links the capital cities of Abu Dhabi and Dubai there are few signs of human life apart from the traffic. Bedouin settlements and new villages lie off the route, in the all-embracing desert, but some of the most noticeable indications of them are large signboards proclaiming a local clinic. I saw at least three of them along this route and there may have been others. They stand as something more than a guide to those in need of medical aid: landmarks of progress, signs of the future.

The United Arab Emirates differ from other Gulf countries in one important way: they are a federation and not a single state. Therefore, much of their administrative work has two levels of operation—through the federal Government and also through that of the individual emirate. This is true of their health services, but the overall planning is conceived and carried out by the UAE's central Ministry of Health based in Abu Dhabi, which is also responsible for some 75 per cent of the country's medical services. The other 25 per cent is made up by local provisions in each emirate, and in military health services.

Total population of the UAE is estimated at one million, a small figure for a fairly large territory. Moreover, it includes so many expatriates brought in to aid development that the authorities prefer not to make known the exact balance between the indigenous population and the immigrants.

Both these factors have a bearing on the medical administration. Most of the population is grouped in the cities but there is a sparse, widely scattered number of indigenous people to be cared for in the rural areas. The establishment of the federal health ministry after independence in 1971, immigrant workers, including the large numbers from the Indian subcontinent, bring their own hazards of infectious disease and their own needs for care. Oil wealth has enabled these countries to develop a new

life. Rulers and administrators in the UAE are clearly aware of the dangers as well as the blessings of affluence, but in matters of health they wisely recognize that their people should have every possible facility and service. Even that is not as simple as it sounds. People take time to use and trust services which are new to them.

First, the whole medical service in all its facets is free for everyone, including expatriates, and this covers treatment for patients referred to foreign hospitals for specialist attention not yet available in the UAE.

In 1979 the ministry's hospitals spread throughout the main towns of the federation had a total of about 2,500 beds, a capacity which it is hoped to double in the next five years. Two specialist chest hospitals are in operation and one for maternity cases—the hand-some 110-bed Corniche Hospital in Abu Dhabi which has been open a little less than three years.

Five more hospitals, general and specialist, were under construction and some are now in use. When the five are completed they will add another 1,700 beds to the total. But while hospitals are, and will increasingly become, centres for treatment and advanced surgery, the preventive side of medicine rests with local clinics. Where there has been no family doctor tradition it is by personal contact through these smaller units that the patients and families' trust is established, and basic health education and hygiene can be taught.

There are now clinics working in many parts of the UAE and they are so located that each serves about 10,000 of the population. This was the basis for the planned polyclinics, with a smaller centre to be opened for every community of 1,000 people or more. Widely scattered communities are served by mobile units, and there is a helicopter ambulance service.

The preventive medicine side of the present programme includes eight preventive medicine centres, eight mother and child care health centres, a mobile tuberculosis unit and a spe-

cial centre for work on the eradication of malaria.

The school medical service is also an important part of the whole scheme. Like the local health centres this is regarded as a vital part of personal contact and the establishing of trust. Under this scheme there is a trained nurse in every school, while one doctor serves three to four schools.

More than 1,000 doctors are now working in the UAE providing a ratio of about one to 900 members of the population. There is a shortage of dentists: only about one to 14,000 people. The total number of qualified nurses is about 2,000.

The country has plenty of technicians, but the medical staff is almost entirely expatriate. Doctors are recruited from all over the world, though many of them come from other Arab countries. Ninety per cent or more of the nurses come from abroad. The traditional Arab prejudice against allowing girls to take up professional nursing is probably a deterrent in the UAE as elsewhere in the region, but an effort is being made to recruit and train local girls. There is already one school of nursing in Abu

Dhabi and a new one in Dubai.

For future doctors a faculty of medicine is planned for the University, and the even talk of a medical school in five or more years.

Inevitably, not all existing services are operational. There is long way to go to a comprehensive service on which talk held between UAE and British medical officials, April, 1978.

But the work goes on. More and more clinics are planned, and laboratories and x-ray centres are being expanded to track sources of disease, grant workers across the country.

Expenditure reflects expansion. The Ministry of Health's current announced last September 932m dirhams, 117.2 per cent more than the 832m dirhams of 1977. An additional 117.2 per cent was approved in November, 1977. The figure was 8.3m dirhams

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1979

	31.12.1979	31.12.1978		31.12.1979	31.12.1978
	Dh '000	Dh '000		Dh '000	Dh '000
Share Capital Authorised—Ordinary shares of Dh 100 each	150,000	150,000	Assets		
Issues—ordinary shares of Dh 100 each fully paid	54,000	54,000	Cash, balances with banks and money at call and short notice	627,002	4
Proposed Bonus shares issue	108,000	—	Deposits with Banks	74,503	—
Reserves	34,000	100,000	Loans and advances repayable on demand and within one year	1,306,813	1,000,000
Profit & Loss Account	530	529	Accrued interest receivable and other accounts	20,442	—
Shareholders Funds	196,530	154,529		2,028,760	—
Liabilities			Loans and advances repayable after one year	652,969	—
Current and deposit accounts maturing within one year, including reserve for contingencies	2,374,695	1,986,075	Investment securities	59,752	—
Long Term accounts maturing after one year	189,706	252,091	Premises and other assets	67,413	—
Creditors, accruals and proposed dividend	47,963	36,226	Liabilities of customers for confirmed credits, acceptances and guarantees	2,808,894	—
Confirmed credits, acceptances and guarantees on behalf of customers	888,608	766,336		888,608	—
	3,697,502	3,195,257		3,697,502	—

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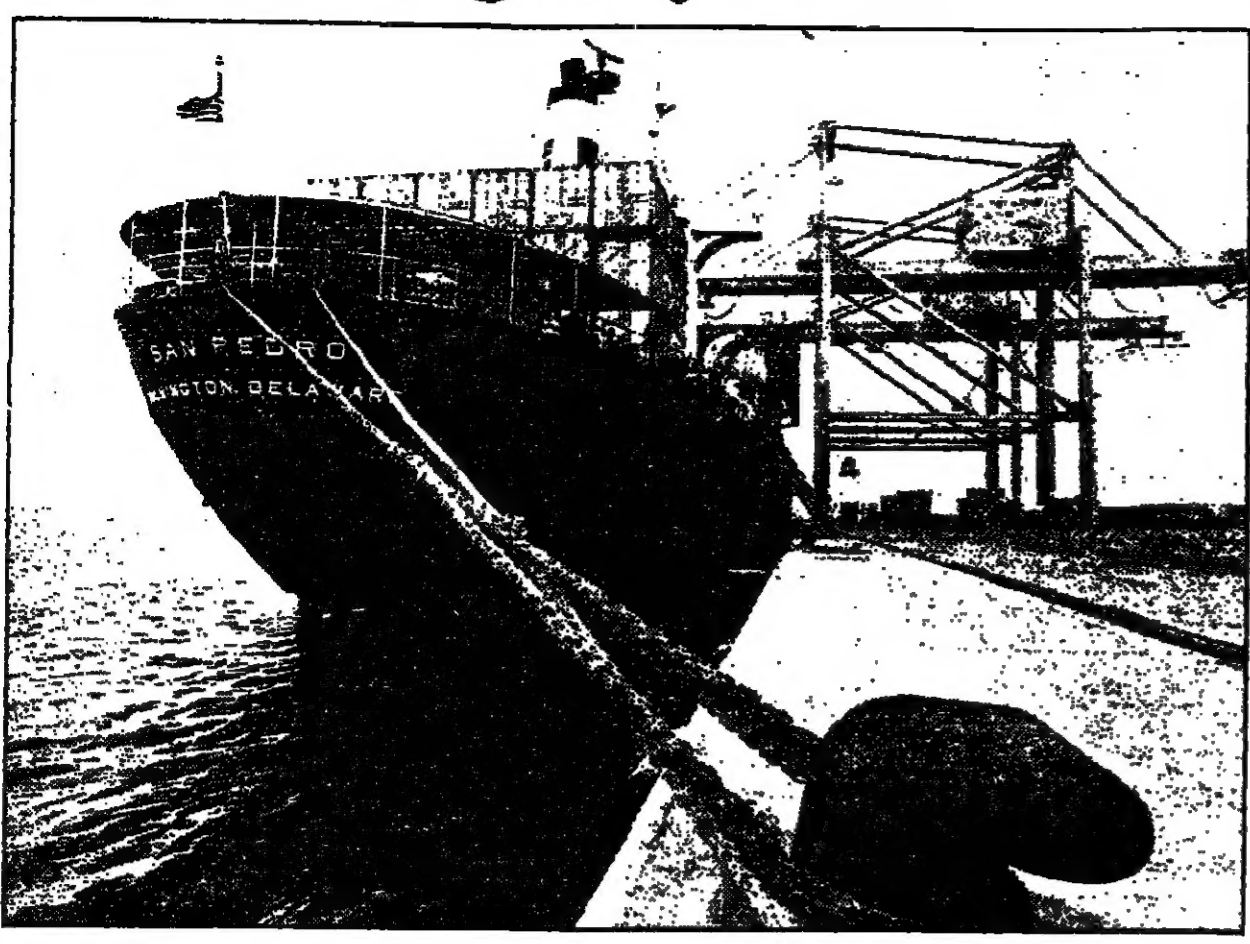
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Communications

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A container ship at Jebel Ali port.
ports, and several new ones are being built.
Dubai has so far handled more than 60 per cent of the total value of imports entering the emirates through Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and most of this comes through Dubai's Port Rashid. It has a refrigerator terminal and a bonded refrigerator warehouse for frozen goods. Two years ago the agents for two big shipping lines also started their own bonded freezing in Dubai.
These and other developments reflect Dubai's aim to be a transit goods centre for cargoes coming in by sea for reexport by air or land. This began with shipping from the east bringing in cargoes which were then flown on to West Africa. The system has developed because the facilities are good and bureaucratic delays slight.
Dubai also acts as a crew change centre, which aids the town's cheaper hotels.
While Port Rashid continues to expand, the new port of Jebel Ali a little to the south-west along the coast has also come into operation. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth last year, and will be completed in 1981. It is designed for industrial work and large shipments for the Gulf.
Port Zayed at Abu Dhabi has increased its number of deepwater berths to 18 within the past three years.
Sharjah's port had the first container terminal in the emirates and is aiming to hold an important place

among its fellows in the handling of air-sea freight interchange.
Much of the success of the business of the air and seaports—all of it that is not destined for reexport from the point of entry—depends on road communications in and beyond the emirates. Here there has been striking development. Fast roads now link the capitals of the six west-coast emirates—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaywayn and Ras al Khaymah—and in 1975 another main road was completed over the mountains to the more remote east-coast Fujairah, which lies between two sections of the Sultanate of Oman.
Fujairah's own shore highway joins the Oman coast road running southwards, so that except for the extreme northern peninsula jutting out into the Strait of Hormuz the whole of this part of the Arabian coast is accessible by modern roads.
In the other direction from Abu Dhabi, westwards, the coast road goes right up to the Qatar border, linking with the northern Gulf states, while desert highways strike through the hinterland to Oman and Saudi Arabia.
These are modern versions of the old caravan routes. Trucks instead of camels carry the goods, and they may well have come from the other end of what was the known world 2,000 years ago. Good roads for long-distance driving now run from Western Europe to the shores of the Gulf, and many goods are carried in this way.
If the main highways are

good, there is still some congestion in the cities, and rush hour traffic in Dubai compares with that in London, although Dubai provides more spectacular opportunities for queue-jumping.
In 1976 the Emirates Telecommunications Corporation was established by government decree, and the telephone and telex services are being developed to meet the expanding business and private demands. On the whole they seem to work smoothly and efficiently.
The Jebel Ali earth satellite station, built at a cost of 20m dirhams, was opened

by the United Arab Emirates' President, Shaikh Zayed, in 1975. By 1985 it will be able to handle 60,000 international telephone calls and it is also used for telex services, telegraphy and colour television.
A second earth satellite station, at Ras al Khaymah, has begun working. Both of these are linked with the Indian Ocean Interstat 4. Another station is planned. It will be in the Abu Dhabi emirate and will be linked with the Atlantic satellite to widen the sphere of communications.
P.T.

Bookshelf

A secret history of The Gulf

Books on that part of the southern shores of The Gulf which now comprise the United Arab Emirates were conspicuous by their absence before 1970 for the simple reason that there was little or nothing to write about of interest to other than the most discerning scholar of that part of the world.
A conspicuous exception is the *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf* by J. G. Lorimer, of the Indian Civil Service who died in 1914. Published in two volumes, the gazetteer, which might well be described as the Old Testament of The Gulf, is a byword for all both Arab and British, who have interested themselves in the history of this region. Somewhat surprisingly Volume II was published in 1908 before Volume I, which was published in 1914 in the year of Lorimer's death. The gazetteer was for many years on the secret list, and although it has been republished, most recently by the Irish University Press, copies today are very difficult to obtain. The history of Trucial Oman (the UAE) from 1600 to the end of the nineteenth century is covered in great detail in chapter three of Volume I of the gazetteer.
One of the few books designed for the general reader of Gulf affairs, which covered the Trucial States, is *The Trucial States* by Sir Rupert Hay published by the Middle East Institute, Washington, in 1959. Sir Rupert was a former political resident of Persian Gulf, whose term of office covered the transfer of the political residency from Bushire in Iran to Bahrain, when responsibility for the office was taken over by the Foreign Office in London from the Government of India. This well-informed book is now difficult to come by and can probably be obtained only second-hand.
Among more recently published books on the Trucial States and still being published is *The Trucial States* by Donald Hawley (George Allen & Unwin, £4.75), a former political agent, Trucial States, in Dubai in 1958. With considerable experience of Gulf affairs over a period of years, the author is well-qualified to deal with his subject.
A well-documented history of the UAE, bringing the reader right up to the present day is *The United Arab Emirates—a Modern History* by Muhammad Morsy Abdallah, published in 1978 by Croom Helm at £17.95. Dr Morsy, an Egyptian and master of his subject, is director of the

Centre for Documentation and Research at the Presidential Court in Abu Dhabi. Another history of the UAE published at about the same time in a less scholarly and more provocative vein is *The Origins of the United Arab Emirates* by Rosemarie Said Zahlan, published by the Macmillan Press in 1978 at £10. This deals frankly with the historical and continuing rivalries between Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
Another recent book on the emirates is *The United Emirates: Unity in Fragmentation* by Ali Muhammad Khalifa published by Croom Helm at £12.50. A more specialized publication on the UAE is *The United Emirates—an Economic and Social Survey*, by K. G. Fenelon, published in 1973 by Longmans at £4.95. Dr Fenelon was statistical director in Abu Dhabi.
At the lighter end of the scale coming under the classification of an illustrated guide is *The United Arab Emirates: an Insight and Guide*, by Michael Tomkinson, published in 1975 by M. Tomkinson at £6.95. Liberally laced with colour illustrations and maps it is an asset for the coffee table.
Also coming under this heading is *The Gulf States and Oman*, by Christine Osborne, published in 1977 by Croom Helm at £7.95.
The Gulf, by Molly Izzard, published in 1979 by John Murray at £8.50, attractively written by a perceptive author at a personal level, gives a vivid picture of present-day life in The Gulf. It is apt to skip around a bit so that one does not quite know if one is in or out of the UAE. Dealing specifically with Abu Dhabi is *Abu Dhabi a Portrait* by J. Daniels, published in 1974 by Longmans at £5.50, now somewhat outdated by the swiftly-changing scene in that part of the world. John Daniels was in the finance department in Abu Dhabi, having also worked in Kuwait and Oman.
For those interested in current books about the UAE, useful sources are Great Russell Street, London WC1, and Arthur Probsthain, of 41 Great Russell Street, London W1, of 12 Suffolk Road, London SW13, specializes in out of print and rare editions and Ad Orientam, of St Leonards on Sea, Sussex, specializes in both current and rare books on these subjects.
The Travel Bookshop, 12 Abingdon Road (off Kensington High Street), London, has a good general stock of books on Middle East countries, new and second-hand.
T.O.

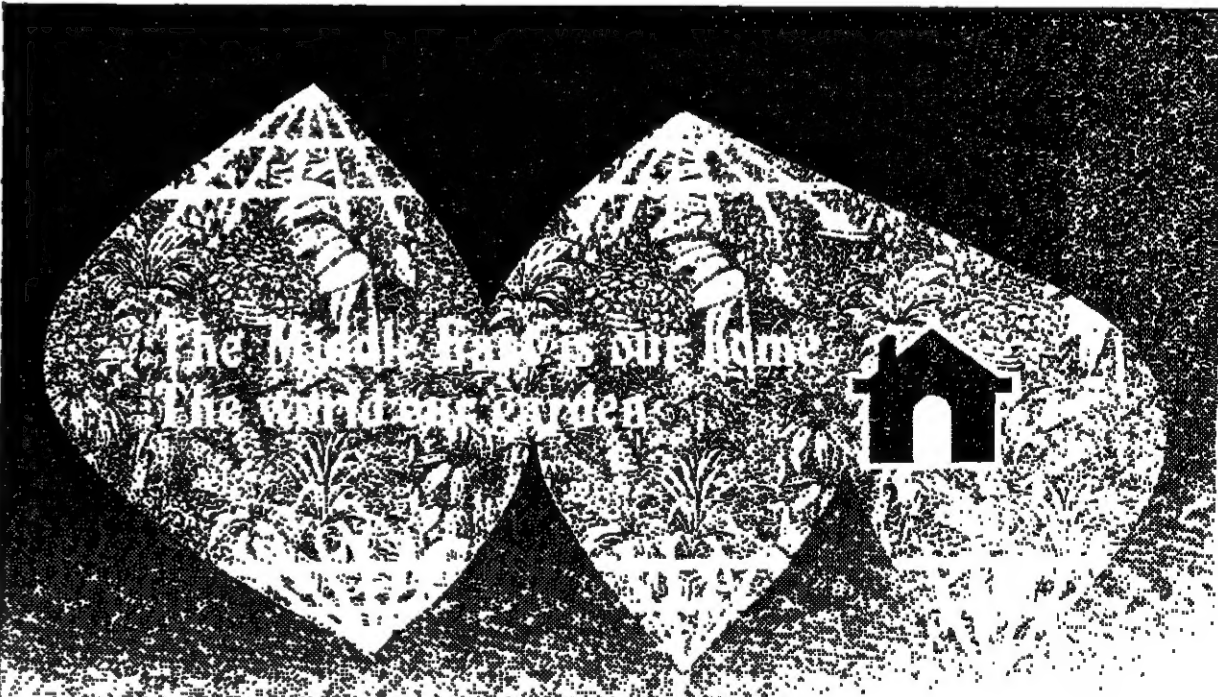
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WHOLLY OWNED COMPANIES
• Al-Futtaim Properties Ltd.
• Gulf Marketing & Servicing Co.
• Management Services Division
• Al-Futtaim Trading
• Al-Futtaim-Holding Toyota
• Trading Enterprises
• Al-Futtaim Autos & Machinery

• Al-Futtaim Electronics
• Omega National Electronics
• Hensel & Mohamed
• Al-Futtaim - Doha
• Al-Futtaim Industries
• Al-Futtaim Construction
• Al-Futtaim Engineering
• Al-Futtaim Real Estate
• A.F. (Overseas) Incorporated
• Al-Futtaim Far East Ltd.
• Hong Kong
• Al-Futtaim Asia Pacific
• Pte. Ltd. Singapore

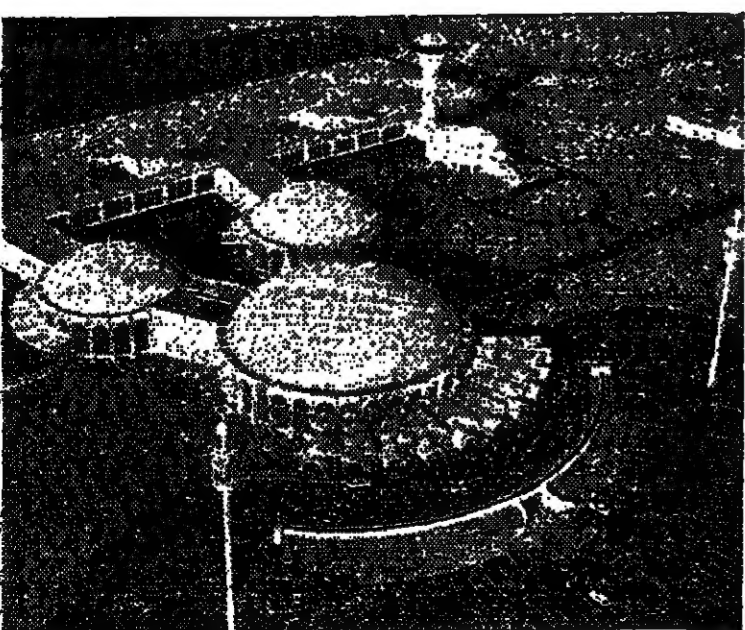
JOINT COMPANIES
• Middle East Bank Ltd.
• Al-Futtaim-Wimpsey (Pvt) Ltd.
• Al-Futtaim-Wells
• Faltamex Trading Co. Egypt
• Faltamex Investment Co. Egypt
• Faltamex S.A.E.
• Cairo, Egypt

• Omega Marketing & Servicing Co.
• Middle East Finance International Ltd.
• Al-Futtaim Tower Scaffolding (Pvt) Ltd.
• Faltamex Trading Co. Egypt
• Faltamex Investment Co. Egypt
• Faltamex S.A.E.
• Cairo, Egypt

ASSOCIATE COMPANIES
• Arab Emirates Investment Co.
• Arab Heavy Industries Ltd.
• National Scaffolding Co. Saudi Arabia
• Tower Scaffolding Bristol Ltd.
LIAISON OFFICES
• Bombay, Karachi
• Kuala Lumpur

GAMMON

U.A.E. — SAUDI ARABIA — IRAQ — OMAN



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